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Engraved by J. C. Buttre, New York.

*Sam<sup>l</sup> Huntington*

SAMUEL HUNTINGTON, LL.D.

GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT AND PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.



HISTORY  
OF  
NORWICH,  
CONNECTICUT.

FROM ITS POSSESSION BY THE INDIANS TO THE YEAR 1866.

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BY FRANCIS ANWARING CAULKINS,

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ALSO

A BRIEF SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF THE AUTHOR,

TO WHICH IS ADDED

AN APPENDIX,

Containing Notes and Sketches, continuing the History to the close  
of the year 1873.

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“Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations.”

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PUBLISHED BY THE FRIENDS OF THE AUTHOR.  
1874.

## LIST OF PORTRAITS.

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1. SAMUEL HUNTINGTON.
2. FRANCES M. CAULKINS.
3. WILLIAM A. BUCKINGHAM, LL. D.
4. BELA PECK.
5. ASA FITCH.
6. REV. JOHN TYLER, F. D.
7. REV. HIRAM P. ARMS, D. D.
8. WILLIAM WILLIAMS.
9. REV. ABRAM BOND, D. D.
10. REV. DAVID N. BENTLEY.
11. WILLIAM C. GILMAN.
12. HENRY STRONG, LL. D.
13. L. F. S. FOSTER, LL. D.
14. HARRIET P. WILLIAMS.
15. GEORGE L. PERKINS.
16. JEDEDIAH HUNTINGTON.
17. MARVIN WAIT.
18. ELIZA HUNTINGTON.

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HARTFORD :  
PRESS OF CASE, LOCKWOOD & BRAINARD,  
1873.

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## PREFACE.

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The History of Norwich, published in 1845, having been for several years out of print, it seems desirable that the public should be furnished with a new and more complete work,—one that shall not only bring the course of events to the present time, but shall glean over again the records of the past, and be more exhaustive in regard to memorials of former days. The first edition may be regarded as a preliminary foray into a district so rich in resources, that the invader could not leave it without a deep-seated determination to return and more thoroughly explore the field.

The History has been entirely re-written, and is, in fact, a new work. The author has considered it an imperative duty to review all the sources of information, and to make it as complete a town history as the materials would permit. This led to a considerable delay in the original purpose which was to have it appear in 1860, as an offering to the two hundredth year. But it had not been issued then, it would have closed with the Bicentennial Festival of the town, without any warning of that mighty convulsion which was about to upheave the country, and the closing chapters which display the patriotism, energy, and sacrifices of the town in the war for the Union, would have been wanting.

The author is now enabled to speak with more certainty than in the former history upon many points, and particularly concerning the ancestors of families. Yet the work is designed to be strictly a *History*, not a collection of Genealogies. The field was too opulent in narrative materials to leave space for following out the family branches of so large a surface, and to map out the descendants of a few of the fathers of the town and not of all, would make the work a failure.

It has been the aim of the writer to avoid profuse laudation, yet to bestow praise where it was due, and invariably to speak of men and meas-



ures historically, without straining the records, or ranking probabilities as certainties. Mistakes are made and errors propagated in history till they become current, and truth is lost by a loose and thoughtless way of paraphrasing the original annals, and giving the transcriber's impressions of the scene, rather than the strict features of the scene itself. The idea thus conveyed is often at variance with the facts. We look at the picture through another man's mind and see it colored with the hue of his prejudices.

This history has not been written as a task, but rather for the pleasure it gave ; flowers grew and fragrance filled the air, all along the path of research. The author can but hope that some few readers—aged and lonely people, or those among the stirring and ardent, who turn reverently toward the past, the youth perchance whose curiosity is excited to know what has been done on this spot in other times, and the far-off wanderer that cherishes Norwich as his own early home, or the seat of his ancestors—will experience in the perusal some portion of that satisfying interest which was felt in the preparation.

The work is larger than the author had forecasted ; there is more of it perhaps than is desirable ; yet the original manuscript has been much abridged and condensed to bring it within this compass.



RECEIVED BY THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

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1764

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Third paragraph of handwritten text, appearing as a shorter section or a concluding thought.

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Fifth paragraph of handwritten text at the bottom of the page, possibly a signature or a final note.



## PREFACE TO EDITION OF 1874.

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At the time of the decease of the author of this History there remained in sheets in the hands of the printers about 350 copies of the work. The undersigned, after consulting with a few friends in Norwich who have always manifested much interest in their local history, determined to prefix a brief memoir of the author and to add such number of pages to the volume as would be necessary to bring the record of important local events down to the close of the year 1873.

He desires to express his sincere thanks to Mr. John W. Stedman, author and publisher of the *Norwich Juilee*, for his kindness in preparing the additional pages, and thus preserving any incidents of local interest which might otherwise have been lost and forgotten.

All the contents of the history published in 1866 will be found in this volume, with the exception of the portraits of Samuel Huntington, Ebenezer Huntington, John Breed, and Lydia H. Sigourney. Engravings originally printed from all the plates in sufficient number for the edition, but an accident to the building in which they were stored destroyed a number of them, and only a portion of those thus destroyed could be replaced. The portraits of Hiram P. Arms, David N. Atley, Elizabeth Huntington, Harriet P. Williams, and Frances M. Caulfield, are added to this edition.

HENRY P. HAVEN.

NEW LONDON, Nov. 24, 1873.



## MEMOIR.

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FROM time to time death removes from this world those who have filled high places of honor or trust, and those whose names have become familiar to both young and old by their deeds of valor, or by their contributions to the continually accumulating stores of human knowledge and science. When such persons of special eminence depart from among us, public tributes of respect and obituary notices bring freshly before the living the virtues and talents of the deceased, and not unfrequently a volume of biography preserves the memory of their great or good deeds for the benefit of future generations.

There are, however, all through our land many excellent and intelligent men and women, who, in the more quiet walks of life, not only shed light and happiness within their own circle of associates, but contribute of the talents which the Lord has given them to elevate and enlighten their fellow men. Loved and respected as widely as they are known, when such choice spirits pass away it is surely right that the call of living friends for some brief memorial of their well-spent lives should be heeded and answered.

It has been deemed proper, in binding up for sale and circulation copies remaining on hand of the "History of Norwich" (last work), to prefix this brief memoir, which is mainly a sketch published in the "New England Historical and Register" for October, 1869.

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FRANCES MANWARING, daughter of Joshua and Fanny (Manwaring) Caulkins, was born in New London, Conn., April 26, 1795, and there February 3, 1869. Her ancestry, on the paternal side, can be traced to the early settlers of Plymouth, Mass., and vicinity.

Mr. Richard Blinman, minister in Chepstow, Monmouthshire, England, having been silenced for non-conformity to the established church, immigrated to this country, and is supposed to have arrived at Plymouth in the autumn of 1640. He was accompanied in his voluntary exile by



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several members of his church, with their families, and all taken together were styled the "Welch party." Monmouthshire borders upon Wales, and probably most of them were of Welsh origin, but English appears to have been their native language. The exact time of their arrival is not known, but a part of them, including Mr. Blinman and Hugh Cauken, were propounded for freemanship at Plymouth, March 2, 1640; which was too early for any immigrant vessel to have arrived that year.<sup>1</sup>

In the first New England the family name is written as above, Cauken, and it may be interesting to notice here the changes which have taken place in the spelling of this surname, since it first appears in the old country. It has been heretofore stated by a writer in the pages of the "Register,"<sup>2</sup> that the original name was probably Colkin. William Colkin lived in King John's reign, 1199-1216, and founded a hospital in Canterbury, which bore his name. The Caulkins and Gookings, with the different variations and changes, in the spelling and pronunciation of the names, are all supposed by the writer referred to, to have descended from a Colkin. At the same time, there is great diversity, even among acknowledged members of the same stock, in spelling the name; some using *u* and others *o* for the vowel of these letters.

The "Welch party" located first a field; Mass., but the previous settlers comers, the latter removed the next year in the "Massachusetts colony."<sup>3</sup> He was nominated as freemen of M. He was deputy t

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removed from Gloucester, where he had been for eight years, to New London, then called Pequot Harbor, in the fall of 1650. He seems to have been accompanied on his first voyage by Obadiah Bruen, a man of unusual intelligence and education, and of sound mind and judgment. He was clerk or recorder of Gloucester for several years, and held the same office in New London during his entire residence in that town, which was sixteen years. Hugh Calkin and

<sup>1</sup> Records of the county of Plymouth.

<sup>2</sup> Vol. ii, page 167—Art. Gookin Family.

<sup>3</sup> Savage's Winthrop (edit. 1853), vol. ii, page 77.

<sup>4</sup> Records of the general court of Massachusetts.



several others, who came from the old world with Mr. Blinman in 1640, followed him to New London, and strengthened the little colony there by the addition of about twenty families. The records show grants of land to Mr. Blinman, "Hughe Caukin," and six others, October 19, 1650, and, under the same date, six house lots were pledged to them, which were laid out in March of the following year, mostly in "New Street," a narrow road on the west side of the town which was opened to accommodate the Gloucester immigrants, and acquired from them the familiar name of "Cape Ann Lane," by which it is still quite generally known, though now designated on the city map as Ann street. Hugh Calken had the first lot on the south and east end of this street set off to him. It consisted of six acres, and the precise spot can easily be identified at the present time.

He was chosen a deputy to the General Court at Hartford in September, 1651, and was at that time the deputy to the General Court of Massachusetts from Gloucester. He does not appear, however, to have been present at the session in Hartford. He was also selectman in 1651 in both towns. Inferred from these facts that he was esteemed a man of unusual good sense and capacity, whose services New London, then called Pequod, could not do without, and Gloucester unwilling to lose. While residing in New London he held the office of selectman, or townsman as it was then called, without interruption; being chosen annually for ten or eleven successive years. He was also their representative in the General Court for twelve sessions, from 1652 to 1660.

It cannot be the General Court that he was a member of the Church, in New London. It is a member of the Church, 1670, or ten years before he was not commence until and providing for the records preserved during a minister's tenure. The business of the town corporate affairs. There his record. The business of the town less in the arrival of a minister would many of was all done by the hands have followed him not only from the old country church in New England, a church was regularly formed and all administered. Indeed, it is hardly possible that it could have otherwise, as Mr. Blinman is uniformly styled "Pastor of the church." When he removed to New London, the town had been on the lookout for some time for a minister, and in 1648 the Rev. Sam'l Dudley, son of Gov. Dudley, and son-in-law of Gov. Winthrop, had some thoughts of settling there.<sup>1</sup> It is probable that the little community felt themselves too feeble to undertake the support of a minister until after the accession of the colony from Gloucester.

<sup>1</sup> Winthrop's letter to his son. Savage's Winthrop, vol. ii. page 355.



Mr. Blinman was a man of good repute in New England, and is spoken of by Gov. Winthrop as "godly and able." The town pledged him a salary of £60 per annum, to be increased with their ability, and liberal donations of land. The records show that they abundantly fulfilled the last pledge, and he was probably quite acceptable to the people, as they built him a house on a high, pleasant lot, now Granite street, west of the first burial ground. The reasons for relinquishing his charge are not given, but he left New London early in 1658, and removed to New Haven, where he resided about a year. He embarked from New London in 1659, for England, via Newfoundland, and was living in "the castle," city of Bristol, January, 1670-1.<sup>1</sup>

Soon after his pastor removed, Hugh Calkin joined a Saybrook company, who had associated themselves for the purchase and settlement of Norwich, and a church being organized at Saybrook for the new town, he was made a deacon. He seems not to have removed immediately, but to have alternated in his business enterprises between the two towns for about two years. He owned some large tracts of land in the vicinity of New London which he retained for several years, but sold his house, barn and home-lot on "New street" to William Douglass, in February, 1661. An incident which gives us some insight into the habits and customs of the people of that day should be mentioned. In February, 1672-3, Deacon Caulkins, of Norwich, was served with a writ from Mr. Leake, of Boston, for £3 10s., the amount of debt due to William Rogers from the town of New London, for the rent of a building that had been used for a meeting-house, some fifteen years before, and for which Mr. Caulkins was the surety. The endorser satisfied the debt and applied to the town for repayment. The obligation was acknowledged, but hardly with the promptitude which would be expected at the present time; as appears from the following note on the town records: "Upon demand, by Hugh Calkin, for money due to Mr. Leake, of Boston, Sir, improvement of a barn of Goodman Rogers, which said Calkin stood it pledged for to pay, his town doth promise to pay one Barrel of Pork to Calkin some time next winter." Hugh Calkin took a prominent part in the town and church affairs of Norwich, and died there about the year 1690, and as he was by his own deposition 72 years old in 1672, he must have been about 90 at his death. He was doubtless interred in the burial ground in that town.

Calkin's wife we only know that her name was Ann. Hugh and Ann Calkins are believed to have been the common ancestors of all persons bearing the name in the United States. They had six children: Sarah, Mary, John, Rebecca, Deborah and David.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The *Journal of Thomas Minor*, of Stonington, says—Mr. Blinman "taught" in New London, July 27, 1659; probably a farewell service.



Deborah was born at Gloucester, March 18, 1644, and probably David<sup>2</sup> was also born there. It is likely that all the others were born in England. David's birth is not recorded, but he was the youngest child. The older son, John, removed with his father to Norwich, and settled and died there.

DAVID<sup>2</sup> located in the Nabantick grove of his father, near the Niantic river, or Rope ferry bar, in what was unknown London, now Waterford, and the farm remained in the possession of his descendants, in direct line, until 1855. He married Mary Norraughter of Thomas Bliss, of Norwich, and had eight children. The second was Ann, and at her baptism, February 4, 1676-7, Mr. Bradstreet minister at New London, makes this record:—"Child of David Caulkins baptized on account of his wife, a member in full communion of the church in Norwich."

JONATHAN<sup>3</sup> was the third child of David<sup>2</sup> and Mary. He was born January 9, 1678-9, and married Sarah Turner, daughter of Ezekiel and Susannah, December 11, 1700. He was a lieutenant in the frontier wars with the French. He had six children. His will, dated August 7, 1738, is in the possession of Daniel O. Caulkins, of Brooklyn, N. Y., one of his descendants. He died July 17, 1750, and was interred in the old burial-ground at London, where his grave stone is still preserved. His wife died August 15, 1718.

THOMAS<sup>4</sup> was the youngest child of Jonathan,<sup>3</sup> and was born July 29, 1713. He married Mary, daughter of Samuel Rogers. The date of marriage has not been ascertained. They were published as intending marriage, February 21, 1734-5. They had, from the best information obtained, six children, of whom the two oldest, bearing the name of their father's parents, Jonathan and Sarah, were twins and born previously. Thomas Caulkins died July 2, 1750, thirteen days before his father.

JONATHAN<sup>5</sup> married Lydia, daughter of Nehemiah Smith, in 1764, by whom he had 13 children. He was a captain in the Revolution: a brave soldier, resolute and independent in action. He served under Benedict Arnold, and on one occasion, in consequence of additional information obtained after receiving orders, changed his whole route and captured and brought to a party of stragglers. General Arnold was so exasperated with him for violating his orders that he struck him with his sword. Captain Caulkins restrained his anger and retired, expecting the next morning to be arrested. Instead of arrest, Arnold made him a handsome apology. He commanded a company in Colonel Ely's regiment, raised by volunteer enlistment in November, 1776, and was stationed that winter in Pi



dence; and though a wife and large family of small children were to be cared for at home, he was out more or less every year of the war, and performed six or seven tours of arduous military duty. He died September 21, 1787, aged 51, and all his children survived him, excepting the youngest, who died two days before, September 19th.

His wife Lydia was a woman of great energy and discretion. She was tall, erect, and fair; 707. Some features and commanding presence. She survived her husband many years, managed the farm with good judgment, and left it unimpaired to her numerous children. Being a faithful Christian of the Baptist denomination, she often took part in religious meetings, after their custom, and her gifts and graces led to the frequent remark:—"She talked like a minister." Mrs. C. died in 1813, aged 70. The youngest of their children, Sarah, married Gurdon Crocker, November 19, 1807, and died August 11, 1871, aged 85. Mr. and Mrs. Crocker celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of their marriage at New London, November 19, 1867.

JOSHUA,<sup>6</sup> the fifth child of Jonathan and Lydia, was born January 19, 1772. He married Fanny Manwaring in 1790 on whom he had two children, and died of yellow fever at Port au Prince, early in 1795, while on a trading voyage to the island of St. Dora.

FRANCES<sup>7</sup> Manwaring Caulkins, second child of Joshua and Fanny, was born in New London, April 26, 1795.

On the maternal side, the ancestry of Miss Caulkins can also be traced back to the first settlers of the country. In England the family have long been prominent, with many titles and large landed estates. Sir Ranulphus de Mainwaring, or, as the name was then spelt, Mesnilwarin, was justice of Chester in the reign of Richard I. (1189-1199). Sir William Mainwaring was killed in the streets of Chester, defending it for the king, October 9, 1644. Sir Henry Mainwaring, who died in 1797, among other large estates possessed the manor of Peover, the seat of his ancestors; which is one of the estates described in the Domesday survey, as belonging to Ranulphus. In the church at Over Peover are several monuments, with arms and numerous implements of the Mainwarings; among them an altar tomb to Randal Mainwaring, who died in 1411, and to Margery his wife. Over Peover was the residence of the family for thirty generations. In 1615, "Sir Henry Mainwaring was at Newfoundland with five good ships."

The first record relating to the Manwarings in this country of which we have knowledge, bears date November 3, 1664, when Joshua Raymond purchased house, home lot and other land in New London belonging to "Mr. William Thomson, missionary to the Indians near New



London," for Oliver Manwaring his brother-in-law. A part of this purchase still remains in the name, being owned by R. A. Manwaring, M. D., a lineal descendant, and has never been alienated. It is one of the finest situations in the city, commanding a beautiful view of the harbor and Long Island sound.

Whether OLIVER<sup>1</sup> Manwaring had then just arrived, or had previously been an inhabitant of the colony, is unknown. His wife was Hannah, the daughter of Richard Raymond who was made a freeman at Salem, Mass., 1634, afterwards removed to Norwalk, and thence, in 1664, to Saybrook. Hannah was baptized at Salem, February, 1643: The date of their marriage is unknown. She united with Mr. Bradstreet's church in New London in 1671, and four of their children, all daughters, were baptized September 10, in that year. They had ten children. OLIVER<sup>1</sup> Manwaring died November 3, 1723, nearly 90 years of age. Hannah died December 18, 1717, aged 74. His will was dated March 15, 1721, and all his children were living at that time. He bequeathed to his grandson, John Richards, among others things, "that bond which I had from my nephew Oliver Manwaring in England." The Manwarings who settled in the vicinity of New London, are said to have been noted for a sanguine temper, firmness, resolution, impetuosity, and a certain degree of obstinacy. They were lovers of discussion and good cheer. A florid complexion, piercing black eyes and dark hair are described as personal traits, which are still represented in their descendants.

RICHARD,<sup>2</sup> the fifth child and oldest son, was baptized July 13, 1673. He married Eleanor, daughter of Richard Jennings, May 25, 1710. They had seven children. No record is preserved of the death of either of them, but the inventory of his estate was taken May 10, 1766, and probably indicates the correctness of the tradition, that he lived to the age of 90.

CHRISTOPHER, the sixth child and youngest son, was born September 1, 1722, and married Deborah—born December 9, 1722—daughter of Robert Denison, January 31, 1745. They had thirteen children. He died in 1801, aged 79, and his will was proved May 8, of that year. His wife survived him, and died March 22, 1816, in her 94th year.

ROBERT,<sup>4</sup> the oldest child of Christopher and Deborah, was born December 16, 1745, and married Elizabeth, daughter of Captain James Rogers, October 8, 1772, and by her had seven children. His wife died August 31, 1798, aged 57, and was buried in New London. He was twice married afterwards, having one child by each wife. Robert Manwaring was a man of good information, and strong character. He was for many years a deacon of the church in New London, and removed



North Parish, now Montville, in 1799, and to Norwich, Conn., in 1800, where he died March 24, 1807, aged 61 years. He was buried in the old yard in Norwich town.

FANNY,<sup>5</sup> the third child of Robert and Elizabeth, was born November 6, 1776, and married, first, Joshua Caulkins, 1792; second, Philemon Haven, September 18, 1797. The news of the death of her young husband came to Mrs. Caulkins before the birth of her daughter Frances and at 19 years of age she became herself a widow with two children. She had never left the paternal roof, and most of the time of her widowhood was spent in the family of her father, Robert Manwaring.

Having thus briefly traced the ancestry of Miss Caulkins in both branches, from their first settlement in New England, the further object of this sketch will be to note briefly some of the more interesting events of her life, and the striking beauties and excellences of her character.

During the year 1806, she became the pupil of Rev. Joshua Williams, who taught a select school for young ladies on the green in Norwich town, and though only eleven years of age, she appreciated and improved the advantages enjoyed under this excellent teacher. He was an accomplished, Christian gentleman, of fine taste and literary culture, and she always retained the pleasantest recollections of him, and, indeed, revered his memory. As an illustration of that untiring industry and love for valuable information which characterized her entire life, we may mention that while attending this school, and before she had entered her twelfth year, she patiently wrote out from memory a volume of educational lectures as they were delivered, from week to week. The elements of science which she acquired at this time were the foundation of all her future knowledge and attainments in literature; for, with occasional opportunities of instruction from private teachers, she was yet in a great measure self-taught; and in the rudiments of a study or language which she pursued, she made the progress she desired. She was an insatiable reader, and almost be said that when very young she devoured every book that came within her reach. While she enjoyed fiction and works of a lighter character, her taste for solid reading was early developed, and at eleven years of age she was familiar with the English translation of the Iliad and Odyssey, and the thoughts of the standard English writers of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries entered into and gave a cast to her expanding mind. The germ of the strong love for historical literature which characterized her later life was seen occasionally in her early years. At one time, when only about ten years old, she was missed while visiting at the house of a relative, and after



much search was found seated on an unused loom in the garret, deeply absorbed in reading the history of Connecticut. As might be expected, such a young person was a great favorite, not only among her juvenile acquaintances, but with older persons who could appreciate her talents and maturity of mind. Often would her young friends gather around her and beg her to tell them a story; and then, with a sweet and animated countenance, she would commence the   of some tale of romantic interest, reproduced perhaps from  ing, or, not unfrequently, drawn from her own imagination.   recitals carried captive her youthful audience, and invariably won their admiration and frequently their boisterous applause.

In 1811 and '12, Miss Nancy M. Hyde, and Miss Lydia Huntley, afterwards Mrs. Sigourney, were teaching a young ladies' school in Norwich, and she enjoyed the superior advantages thus afforded for a time, entering their school September, 1811. A book written in that school and preserved by her, contains her first composition; the subject was "Antiquities." These ladies were both persons of superior literary taste and culture, and doubtless exercised a very favorable influence on her mind. Miss Huntley removed to Hartford in 1815, and married Mr. Charles Sigourney, June 16, 1819, and until her death, June 10, 1865, remained a very warm friend and frequent correspondent of Miss Caulkins. Miss Hyde died March 26, 1816. A volume of her letters, &c., published after her death; contains a poetical tribute to her memory from her former pupil.

Frances evinced a remarkable aptitude for the acquisition of languages. She enjoyed the advantage of instruction only a short time, but with patient private study she acquired a thorough knowledge of Latin, and was able to read and teach   that language and the French with facility and acceptance. She spent some time in the family of Rev. Nelson, of Eisbn, in 1825, for the purpose of advancing her knowledge of Latin, and took lessons in each language, of M.   a naive and accomplished teacher, who then resided in Norwich. Later in life, while living in  rk, she pursued the study of German, and under the instructions of  lli, an eminent poet in exile, gained such a knowledge of Italian, as enabled her to read I   and Tasso in the original.

Never having been permitted to look upon the face of her own father, her knowledge of parental affection came only through her step-father, and to him she was tenderly and deservedly attached; and her affection was thoroughly reciprocated. His death, which took place Nov. 12, 18   left her mother again a widow, with three young children and limited means. Having before this been occasionally employed in teaching small schools, Frances now determined to support herself, and if necessary a



her mother. On the 4th of January, 1820, she opened a select school for young ladies in Norwich-town. As her talent for teaching was developed, her scholars increased, and the school acquired an excellent reputation and was well sustained for nine years. In 1829, she accepted an invitation from the trustees of the female academy at New-London, to take charge of that institution. She was invited back to Norwich city—or Chelsea, as it was then called—in 1832, and was principal of the academy there, with a large number of pupils, until the close of the year 1834, when she relinquished forever the duties of a teacher.

During these fifteen years she had under her charge nearly 400 different young ladies; many of whom are still living and retain a very pleasant remembrance of their school-days and a strong personal attachment to their instructor. Among her pupils were the lamented wives of Senators Jabez Huntington and William A. Buckingham; and three daughters of Charles Lathrop, afterwards missionaries to India. Very many of her pupils became themselves teachers, and others, as wives of clergymen and laymen in positions of respectability and honor, have so conducted themselves, that, as a teacher, we may say of her, in the words of Scripture: "Let her own works praise her."

The year following the close of her school, she spent in visiting her friends and in recreation. In the spring of 1835, she went to New York and resided in the family of her cousin, David H. Nevins, until May, 1842, when she removed to New-London and found a home in the family of the writer until the day of her death.

She early manifested an unusual talent for versification as well as for prose writing, and although encouraged by the advice and approbation of friends she declined to thrust herself forward for notice by offering the productions of her pen to the public prints. Among her manuscripts are many fugitive pieces of poetry without dates, but were written in early life. The first, in apparent date, the oldest attainments in life, the "Indian Harp," and would do credit to her later from the best forth in order, in this book, is a long poem on "Thanksgiv'g when once a day one dated. This is stated to have been written in 1811, and all the piece only has been found, and that is on a loose sheet, and it might 26, 1813, and entitled "The Geranium's Complaint." It is a work that

A considerable portion of the time, from 1812 to 1819, while her mother resided in Norwich, she spent pleasantly in the family of her uncle, Christopher Manwaring, at New-London. He had recently erected a fine mansion, on the beautiful grounds which he had inherited from his ancestors, and was a gentleman of literary taste and cultivation. He was a great admirer of Pope, Johnson, and the old English authors. He had a good library, and being of kind and winning manners, it is not strange that a strong mutual attachment grew up between them, and that he be-



came very fond of the society of his niece, and proud of her talents. He was a great friend of Madison, and an early admirer of General Jackson. The first of her writings, now known to have been printed, appeared in the *Connecticut Gazette*, April 17, 1816, addressed to the hero of New Orleans. The contributor acknowledges that he stole it from the "fair tyro," and no author's name is attached.

Her contributions to the local papers of New London have been very numerous, and with any striking event in the domestic history of the place, or with the decease of any aged or distinguished person, its citizens were sure to be favored with an interesting article, in which passing events were so interwoven with previous history as to command the attention of all classes of readers. During the past few years quite a number of inhabitants of that city have been able to notice the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage. She was sure to be a welcome guest at all such gatherings, and her congratulatory lines were ever regarded as a golden present. Holding the pen of a ready writer, choice thoughts flowed in chaste and beautiful words, whether in prose or poetry, and it is not too much to say, that only her own modesty and humility prevented her from coming before the world and claiming a position among the distinguished writers of the day.

It will be proper, in this connection, to speak of her published works and contributions to the religious and historical literature of the country. During her residence in New York, she was intimately acquainted with Rev. Messrs. Hallock and Cook, secretaries of the American Tract Society. In 1835, that society published a premium tract entitled, "Do your Children reverence the Sabbath?" and the following year, "The Pequot of a Hundred Years," both from her pen, and of which they have issued 1,058,000 copies. She next prepared for them, in 1841, "Children and the Bible," all in verse and original; and in 1846 "Child's Hy Book," partly a compilation. In 1847, she furnished the "Tract Primer," one of the most popular and useful books ever published by that society. They have printed 800,000 copies of it in English, and 246,000 have been published in German and other European languages. The society at a meeting of their publishing committee, April 23, 1849, by vote invited her to prepare a suitable series of books for children and youth to follow the Primer. In compliance with this request, she furnished volumes of "Bible Studies," forming an illustrative commentary on the whole Scriptures, and showing accurate scholarship and biblical research interesting to the young, but full of valuable information for all who love the word of God. She was five years (from 1854 to 1859) in preparing this series, and contributed to the society, in 1861, one more work, entitled "Eve and her Daughters," being sketches of the distinguished men of the Bible in verse. She was also, up to the close of her



frequent contributor to their "American Messenger," furnishing them, but one week before her death, "The Aged Emigrant"—a few verses of poetry—the last line being "A Stepping-stone to Heaven."

A deep sense of religious obligation pervaded her entire life, and was never lost sight of in her literary labors. An ardent thirst for knowledge, so deep as to amount to an almost insatiable craving, early took possession of her soul, and she could only be satisfied as she gathered and stored up the wisdom of the past. With a deep veneration for the piety and principles of our Puritan forefathers, she loved to linger among the graves and written records of their lives and deeds; and, like "Old Mortality," she recovered many an almost obliterated tomb-stone, and preserved its story from oblivion. Nearly every burial place in the county was personally examined, and any stone of great age or special interest was faithfully transcribed. Doubtless all these researches into the records of the past, whether in town or church-books, or on tomb-stones, were in accordance with her natural tastes; still we believe that something of the feeling which animated Walter Scott's hero was ever present with her. She would not let the worthy and pious dead pass out of mind, nor allow the good deeds of our ancestors to be forgotten, so far as any labor that she could perform might prevent it.

Something from the mass of historical and genealogical information which she had accumulated, was first given to the public in the form of a history of the town of Norwich, in 1845. It was a book of 360 pages, with some local illustrations, and was well received and appreciated by the public. In 1852, she published a larger work, The History of New London, of 672 pages. This was very carefully and thoroughly prepared, and won many commendations from distinguished scholars and antiquarians. In 1860, some of the volumes of this history being still in the press, twenty pages were added and bound up with the original book, giving eight years additional records. Her materials having greatly increased since the issue of the first history of Norwich, and the edition of print, she re-wrote the entire work, and a new volume of it was given to the public in 1866.

Mr. Bulkins had now become widely known to many of the leading antiquarians of antiquarian tastes, in different parts of the country. Mr. Everett, Robert C. Winthrop, George Bancroft and others corresponded with her, and acknowledged her ability and accuracy. Mr. Sylvester Judd, of Northampton, and the Hon. James A. Boston, fully appreciated her historical knowledge, and made themselves of her stores of information respecting the history of New England. Roger S. Baldwin and Henry White of New York were among those who highly esteemed her works; and the following letter, under date of June 3, 1864, referring to the history of



New London, writes :—" I have met with no town history which, in my judgment, is quite equal to it." Rev. Dr. Sprague, of Albany, in very complimentary terms, says :—" I imagine there are few in our country, of either sex, whose opinion or accuracy in respect to the past is as good as yours." She was elected to honorary and corresponding membership by several eminent societies, which appreciated her historical researches and accumulated antiquarian lore. She was the only woman upon whom the Massachusetts Historical Society conferred that honor.

Justice to the religious element of her character requires some more particular notice of her views and feelings on the great question of immortality, and fitness for the life which is to come. It is very evident from her early writings that she fully accepted and believed the main doctrines of the Scriptures as they were received and held by her Puritan ancestors. She was profoundly impressed with a sense of her accountability to God, and the responsibility which ever rested upon her to use the talents which He had given her to His own honor and glory. Amidst her highest aspirations, she retained a prevailing sense of subjection to the Divine Will. The great doctrines of religion were especially the subject of anxious thought and solemn reflection, from 1826 to 1831. During the latter year the deep yearnings of her soul for a knowledge of God was satisfied. Under the preaching of Rev. Dr. McEwen, for 54 years pastor of the First Church in New London, her heart became deeply touched with a sense of personal sinfulness and need of a divine saviour; and she publicly acknowledged her deliverance from doubts and fears, and her confidence in Jesus as her Redeemer, by a public profession of her faith and union with the First Church, July 5, 1831. The exercises of her mind were of a peculiarly interesting character, and from a state of gloom and doubt she emerged into a hopeful light, and held on truth with a calm and cheerful faith which abided with her to the end. She immediately engaged in Sunday-School work, and gave some time each week to regular Biblical study with her own school. In removing to Norwich she became connected with the Second Congregational Church there, and, while in New York, united with the Mercer-street Presbyterian Church. After taking up her permanent abode at New London, she transferred her connection to the Second Congregational Church in that city, in February, 1843. Ever ready for good words and works, cheerfully coöperating with fellow-Christians (especially as secretary of the Ladies' Seamen's Friend Society for more than twenty years), she will ever be remembered in the community in which she spent the last years of her life, as worthy of the commendation which her Master bestowed upon one of whom he said, "She hath done what she could;" words which her pastor appropriately used as the text of a memorial sermon, Feb 14, 1869.



In the summer of 1866, she was brought by a long and slow fever very near the gates of death. The second edition of her history of Norwich had just gone into the printer's hands, and the last proofs had been corrected, when her frame, for many years feeble and frail, yielded like a strained bow, and fell withered and almost broken. Fully conscious of her condition, and willing to go if the Master called, she had, at that time, a strong desire to remain longer among her friends, and said to a dear relative: "While <sup>past</sup> could be resigned, yet my prayer is 'Spare me that I may recover <sup>forefa</sup> strength before I go hence and be no more.'" That prayer was graciously answered. She slowly regained a comfortable measure of health and strength, and was able to resume light literary labors, which were continued until the last week of her life. Never possessing a strong physical frame, and very often suffering from weakness and pain, yet she was ever cheerful and pleasant, and by her animated countenance, her chaste and intelligent conversation, shed a fragrant incense upon those into whose society she was thrown. Like many other cultivated minds who rise far above the ordinary level of those around them, her private papers show that she was sometimes touched in her inner life with a shade of sadness, almost of melancholy, and especially felt, as others of the most faithful have often done, that she had accomplished but very little.

A large mass of historical information and genealogical notes, and hundreds of pages of moral and religious prose, remain among her manuscripts. Many of her poetical effusions relating to the private affairs of family and life are now exposed, for the first time, to the eyes of her friends; but the most precious papers to them are a number of pieces written, apparently, within a few months preceding her death, in which her muse seems almost to have been inspired; for her themes are of the coming life, then so near, that its beauties and its glories were <sup>as</sup> <sup>had</sup> <sup>been</sup> <sup>opened</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>her</sup> <sup>gaze</sup>.

A large collection of autographs—many of them not names alone, but of distinguished men and women, attest her interest in that branch of a quarian research; and a valuable assortment of ancient coins had been assiduously gathered during the last fifty years, and specimens of continental currency, with many curious and rare medals, and sermons of ancient date, have been treasured up, and the pieces of corporate, state and governmental paper, representing parts of a dollar, which were so general in the early years of the century, have been to a good extent preserved in a specimen book.

A high rank is claimed for her among the poets of the country, and the productions of her pen, both in measure and rhyme, are held in respect, and in some cases admiration. Two or three pieces believed to have been written not long before her death,



have been selected from many unpublished sheets, and are printed at the close of this memoir, and one on the "Loss of the Atlantic," which was extensively copied on its first appearance, is reprinted.

The results of her years of antiquarian and genealogical labors, have only been given in part to the public. Her relatives have a large mass of manuscripts which they prize, not only for their intrinsic value, but as memorials of her diligent and patient industry. It will give them pleasure, as it ever did the deceased, to communicate any information they possess especially to all who love to search for their own ancestry among those of whom it was well said, two hundred years ago, "God sifted a whole nation that he might send choice grain over into this wilderness."

It only now remains to speak of the closing scenes of her life. During the early part of the winter of 1868-'69, she enjoyed a comfortable measure of health, and on Sunday, January 24, attended divine service in the morning. The day was very beautiful, and she walked, without any apparent fatigue, to the old Universalist Church on Main street, where the Second Congregational Church were then worshipping. The vail which hangs over the future is, wisely, so dark that we cannot pierce its folds, and no intimation of the near approach of the messenger of death was given to her friends. A sudden cold, which fastened itself upon her lungs the last week in January, she had not the physical vigor to overcome. On Monday, February 1st, while still with sufficient strength to pass into an adjoining room, she said to the writer, "I should suffer greatly with my little flesh from a long sickness, and I do not believe it will be appointed unto me." This pleasant testimony of her child-like faith is gratefully remembered. Her friends did not then consider her situation critical. Her open bible on the morning of Feb. 2d showed her reading the previous evening to have been in the Psalms. The 116th one of the Jewish "Hallel," usually supposed to have been sung at the institution of the Lord's Supper, commencing "I love the Lord, because He hath heard the voice of my supplications," was on the open page, and was, perhaps, the last words she ever read. The verse in this Psalm, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints," we fully believe was speedily realized in her case. During Tuesday, February 2d, her breathing was painful, and she was confined to her bed. The day passed, however, her sufferings were alleviated, and friends hoped that the illness was only temporary. But it was the day of earth, and as evening came on, she was sensibly failing. In a low and painful utterance she said, a few words in conversation with a dear relative, indicating that deep love for the Lord and His church had long been interwoven into her very being. Several beautiful hymns she loved were quoted to her, and she herself said that



noble old one of Charles Wesley's, "A charge to keep I have," as her favorite. And no wonder she loved that hymn, for the sentiments it expresses had guided her whole life. Among the Scriptures quoted, her mind rested on the first chapter of St. Paul's Epistle to the Hebrews, "How noble, how grand." But the organs of the weak, physical frame had nearly done their appointed work. She sank gradually into a quiet sleep, and early on Wednesday morning, February 3, 1869, the spirit passed peacefully from the mortal clay, and returned to Him who gave it.

The funeral services at her late residence were conducted by her pastor, the Rev. G. B. Wilcox. The favorite hymn of which she spoke a few hours before her death was sung. At the grave the beautiful burial service of the Episcopal Church was read by the Rev. Dr. Field, and her remains were laid to rest in the Cedar Grove Cemetery. When this lovely spot was consecrated, October 8, 1851, she wrote a hymn of dedication, in which these sweet lines are found:

"The clay that once a soul possessed  
Is not a common clod;  
O leave in sacred peace to rest  
The workmanship of God."

And there we left the "natural body," sown in full faith that it shall be raised a "spiritual body."

Her pastor preached a memorial discourse Sunday, February 14, from the words, "She hath done what she could." The inner workings of her spiritual life were brought out very fully in this sermon, which was afterwards printed for circulation among friends.

No words of eulogy are intended in this brief memoir. Though written by the hand of a loving relative, who enjoyed with her long years pleasant home associations, and who can testify to a cheerful daily life, as is seldom seen, yet great care has been taken to record only facts and events which would interest friends, and not to introduce extracts from her journal and personal reminiscences which would be of a private nature, and contrary to the refined taste of the deceased. Her character may be briefly outlined in these words, "She loved the past, enjoyed the present, was hopeful in the future."

The esteem in which Miss Caulkins was held wherever she was had expression in various forms as soon as her death was known.

Letters of sympathy came to her relatives from numerous friends, who loved her for all that she had been to them as a Christian woman, and also from those who knew her less, but respected her talents. As no other memoir of her life will, published, it has been deemed proper to append to this



sketch some of these letters, with the tributes of personal regard published in a local daily paper by the pastors of the two Congregational churches in New London.

If any person should feel that such testimonials are hardly in place in this volume, the excuse must be, that this is the only form in which they would, probably, be permanently preserved.

A notice of the death of Miss Caulkins was communicated to friends immediately after her decease in the "In Memoriam," which follows in *fac-simile*.



In Memoriam.

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Frances M. Caulkins.

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D i e d .

In New London, Conn., Wednesday morning, Feb. 3d,  
1869, after a brief illness, at the residence of her brother,  
Henry P. Haven, FRANCES MANWARING CAULKINS.

“ We watched her breathing through the night,  
Her breathing soft and low,  
As in her breast the wave of life  
Kept heaving to and fro.

“ When came the morn so dim and sad,  
And chill with early showers,  
Her quiet eyelids elosed ; she had  
Another morn than ours.”

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On the morning of the second of February, ere the sun had lighted up the day, we heard a strange muffled voice within our happy dwelling, and as we trembled, we feared lest it were the rustling of the dark wings of the Angel of Death. All the day, kind friends and the "beloved Physician," ministered around the couch of the loved one, and as evening came on, our hearts were comforted, for the sufferer was free from pain, and the cheerful spirit of her daily life was again upon her.

But we knew not the purposes of our Heavenly Father. The mansion her Saviour had long ago prepared for her might no longer remain vacant, and the Lord had need of her in His upper kingdom. So, after the sands of that day were run, and the midnight hour had passed, the dark Angel came again and would not wait. A voice unheard by mortal ears floated down and whispered to the frail sufferer, "saying the Master is come and calleth for thee," and as soon as she heard



that, she arose quickly and came unto Him." Very gently and kindly dealt the grim messenger with our beloved sister. He laid his hands softly on her eyes and bade her weary form rest in sleep;—and so he did his work. Peacefully, calmly, as an infant reclines upon its mother, she laid her head on Jesus' breast and gently breathed her life away. We watched each weakening pulse and shortening breath, and seemed to hear her say, "Let me go for the day breaketh." And the angels that wait around the dying bed of each departing saint, took the immortal spirit all redeemed and purified in the precious blood of Christ, and ere the sun had risen upon the earth, they bore it in the chariot of Israel up to the celestial gates, and entered the city "which hath no need of the sun, for the glory of God doth lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof."

Thus suddenly our sister left us, we know that He doeth all things well. The Saviour's words, "Come to me," seemed sweetly in her ears, yet we cannot but mourn that the light which has so long illumined our dwelling with its pleasant, cheerful rays, has gone out. 'Tis true, we believe that this light shines brighter in anoth-



er mansion, and we know from her recently written words, she was waiting for the Father's voice, "Come home, my child, come home." Yet sorrow hath filled our hearts, for we shall see her face no more.

We find among her papers a few late productions of her pen, which had only met her own eye. The pure spirit seems in these to have plucked a coal of inspiration from the heavenly altar; and burning with holy love and a presentiment of approaching happiness in heaven, she breathes in them some of the sweetest strains of her poetic life.

One of these (evidently among her latest efforts,) is here presented, under the impression that it will be valued as a memorial by the friends who receive it, and with the hope that its heavenly aspirations may cheer other disciples who "meditate  
Chai in the night watches."

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H. P. H.



## HYMN AT MIDNIGHT.

Midnight spreads her mantle drear,  
Yet bright is my small atmosphere,  
A gleam of Thy great light I see,  
My heart grows large to take in Thee.

The stars are out exchanging rays,  
In shining stillness teaching praise :  
I shine within and Thou canst see,  
My shining thoughts are all of Thee.

I think of Christ, our risen Lord,  
The glories of the written word :  
Doubts, terrors and temptations flee,  
While thus I meditate on Thee.

The gloom that hid my path gives way,  
The clouds disperse and let in day ;  
Jerusalem comes down to me.  
While thus I pass the time with Thee

My heart is hot, my praises burn,  
Like incense from creation's urn :  
My voice breaks forth like wind or sea,  
And midnight shines with praise to Thee.



Now let the joyful tidings spread,—  
My soul is rising from the dead.  
My Saviour's loving face I see,—  
I hear the sweet words—"Come to me."

These gracious words my soul redeem;  
Cool zephyrs, healing dews they seem;  
Deep thunders in soft music's key,  
From heaven resounding "Come to me."

I feel His love's encircling fold,  
Like snow without the touch of cold.  
I float away on love's deep sea,  
Borne by a whisper, "Come to me."

O not so sweet the raptured sound,  
Of rolling worlds in heaven profound;  
No gifted muse, no graceful plea,  
Charms like my Saviour's "Come to me."

I come! I come! He wins my soul;  
I yield to His divine control.  
'Tis love alone, 'tis mercy free,  
That speaks constraining,—"Come to me."



[The following testimonials, received by relatives after her death, are selected from numerous letters, as mentioned on page 21.]

*From Miss Eloise H. Thatcher, New London, Conn.*

I have just received the touching little memorial of your beloved sister, whose death her large circle of loving and admiring friends most truly mourn.

I feel that I cannot better express my sympathy with you and yours on this sad occasion than by asking your acceptance of the enclosed lines, written some days ago, which I have kept until now, intending to deliver them in person.

Although I am conscious that my simple offering fails to do justice to the gifted and beautiful character it commemorates, still I trust it will find a place in the hearts of those to whom she was so dear.

## IN MEMORIAM

### FRANCES MANWARING CAULKINS.

I saw her in her robe of death,  
Yet scarcely seemed she of the dead,  
But in a soft and gentle sleep—  
Oh, should we mourn? or should we weep?  
When such a soul to God hath sped?  
A life so good, so pure, so sweet,  
So childlike at her Saviour's feet,  
So by His precept led.  
To live for Christ! for Christ to die!  
Such is her gain eternally.

I thought as cold in death she lay,  
And fresh-blown flowers breathed  
Their fragrance o'er the unconscious clay,—  
And friends came in with noiseless tread,  
And reverently looked on the dead,  
*How oft for all*, the chaplet sweet  
Of poesy,—she'd wreathed.

I thought upon her gifted mind  
Where treasures rich had lain enshrined—  
The heart that in that fragile form  
Had ever beat with love so warm  
For all of human kind.  
The kindling eye, the smile so sweet,  
The voice we always loved to greet,  
The kindly hand, the friendly ear,  
The words that ever came to cheer,  
These are the charms that may not die  
So dear are they to memory.

Cheerful, through all her length of years—  
Serene, amid life's hopes and fears—  
She passed away from mortal eyes.  
And now within God's holy ground  
Is yet another flower-strewn mound,  
Where she from labor, care, and pain,  
Shall rest 'till all the dead arise.  
And over that still, dreamless sleep  
Good angels sacred watch shall keep.

Gone from among us! but her name  
Enduring in *historic* fame,  
Shall be our precious legacy!  
More gifted minds her praise may breathe  
Mine shall the heartfelt tribute be  
Around her honored name to wreath  
This offering of memory.

E. H. T.



*From Richard A. Wheeler, Stonington, Conn.*

Please accept my grateful acknowledgments for a copy of the beautiful "Memoriam" of your gifted sister, Miss Frances M. Caulkins. From a brief acquaintance with her, and from a somewhat extended correspondence upon genealogical and historical matters, I had learned greatly to esteem and respect her. Her generous and valuable contributions have laid me under the greatest obligations, and I shall ever cherish her memory with gratitude and affection. Be assured of my heartfelt sorrow for her death, and of my tenderest sympathy for you in your great bereavement.

*From Mrs. Charles Coit, Norwich, Conn.*

As so much that is sweet, and holy, and joyful mingles with every thought of her—it is so easy to think of her in heaven, for she seemed all ready for the society of the blessed—that I would rejoice while I grieve with you.

I was greatly shocked by the suddenness of her decease, but could only think of her as a released, rejoicing spirit, *going home*, having served her precious Saviour faithfully here, and now permitted to go up higher, to serve Him above. Oh, what a glorious thought it is!

I have thought much of the time when I was associated with her daily—and ever admired her lovely, cheerful, Christian spirit—of her life since, always doing good to others, ever active in her charities, honoring her Redeemer by her consistent walk, and giving pleasure to all by her cheerful goodness.

*From Miss Jane Ingersoll, Springfield, Mass.*

With her lovely qualities—so much sweetness of disposition, united with so much intelligence—she made her presence a joy anywhere.

With how much truth can I say this of her, when I recall her past intercourse with our family. Indeed she was so associated with our joys and sorrows, that when the news of her death reached me I felt as if one belonging to us had been taken away.

*From Henry Bill, Norwich, Conn.*

My memory of Miss Caulkins will always be fresh and sweet. She was everybody's friend, and her Christ-like character will live long after she has returned to dust.

May her memory be cherished and her example imitated by all, and may flowers bloom on her grave, while she sweetly says, "Come to me!"

*From Rev. Tryon Edwards, D. D., Hagerstown, Md.*

She has passed away, but her memory never will; for those that knew her best had most reason to feel that she was one of the purest spirits, and one of the most faithful, conscientious Christians that it is our lot to meet with here below. As some one said of Leighton, it makes the thought of heaven sweeter to know that we shall meet such there.

*From William H. Starr, New London, Conn.*

Pure, sympathizing, and unselfish, she lived and labored more for others than herself. No child of grief or misfortune ever failed to find in her a kind and sincere friend, and when her willing *hands* could not reach the object of her sympathy, her *heart* and her *pen* never failed in their purpose. Her whole life was one "bundle of love" for her neighbor, in the Scriptural sense of the word. Her "light was always in the window" for every wandering child of misfortune or grief. She was the sincere and constant friend of her race. Her heart created its own atmosphere of love around her, and it would have been strange if she had not been so universally beloved herself, as she was by all who knew her.

The Master whispered in her ear, "Come up higher!" and her pure spirit took with joy its heavenward flight. Her life had been a sweet savor of gentleness and love in her Master's service, and her death was precious in His sight.



*From Rev. Hiram P. Arms, D. D., Norwich Town, Conn.*

You know in what high esteem she is held by her Norwich friends, who are many. Few have left a fairer, purer record than hers. Very few, with the same amount of strength, have accomplished as much for the Master as she.

I shall ever remember with satisfaction my last interview with her at your house. She was feeble, and fast losing her hold upon the world. I have thought of her since, as identified with the world above rather than with earth.

She rests from her labors, and her works do follow her.

The memory of her saintly life cannot but be a blessing to your family. Your children have seen in her an exhibition of our religion divested of everything ascetic and forbidding; cheerful, happy; abounding in beneficence and good-will.

*From Mrs. S. C. B. Thomson, Fair Haven, Conn.*

I loved and revered your departed sister.

I had hoped to see her soon, and arrange a visit with her at my home the coming summer. But she has gone to a brighter home, to be welcomed with "greetings" from loved ones gone before; dear friends, and very many dear pupils, who owe as it were, their own selves, their salvation to her faithful teachings while under her care.

Her record is with the Holy One. She has left a sweet memorial in the hearts of all who knew her.

While I lament her loss, I thank God that for a few years I enjoyed the rare privilege of her personal friendship.

I rejoice to hear that her last hours were peaceful and painless.

*From Mrs. A. W. Lathrop, New Haven, Conn.*

I wonder not that "sorrow hath filled your hearts" and that you mourn "the light of your dwelling gone out."—Nor do I wonder that *she* heard, gladly, the whisper of the Angel,

"Sister spirit come away."

She was so eminently fitted to live, and there was so much for her to enjoy on earth, that *we* can but deplore this unexpected summons. And yet, it were far better for *her* to depart and be with Christ. "For sure, she must be near to Him in Heaven, who did so love His name on earth."

What an industrious life! How much and how well she executed her work!—That History of Norwich, if there were no other proof of her patient and laborious industry,—is sufficient; and to me a marvel. I have, for one, thanked her many times; indeed, I never open the volume, which I always read with renewed interest, without thanksgiving for my share in its records, that I can find now ere else.

Every scrap from her pen, especially her poetic effusions, I treasure up; and regret that I have not more.

*From Miss Mary E. Hempstead, Norwich, Conn.*

My last recollections of her are very pleasant. We went over together, to see Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox. They came out with us, and we went around the foundation of the church. She seemed full of interest for the New Church—and was preparing a Hymn to be sung at the laying of the "Corner Stone."—But before the edifice is completed she has gone to the Church above, where in "white array"—she sits by her Saviour, free from all infirmities and weaknesses, and will "go no more out forever." What a glorious change?

Many, many thanks for the "In Memoriam"—That beautiful "Midnight Hymn!" Oh, for such a midnight! What an expression!—so full, so satisfying, so glorious—

"My heart grows large to take in—Thee!"

There seems so little of death in it—more like a joyful departure to some delightful place. It can be said of her—"That the Saviour led her very gently along on the bank of the river, until she came to a very narrow place, where she stepped over."—



You have every consolation possible in her triumph over death. Her life has been very happy, very useful. How much she has accomplished with great physical weakness and suffering. Truly—"She hath done what she could;" and well done too; and has gone to everlasting rest.

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*From Mrs. H. P. Williams, Norwich, Conn.*

So recently had we seen and enjoyed the society of Miss Caulkins, that it seems doubly trying and sorrowful to realize it was the last time.

Her memory will be lovingly and tenderly cherished by us and all her Norwich friends. Her works will follow her; and be more fully appreciated as time rolls on; while her happy spirit is in the full enjoyment of the blessed.

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*From Rev. W. B. Sprague, D.D., Albany, N. Y.*

I never had the pleasure of seeing Miss Caulkins but once, and then only for an hour; but her fine conversational powers and amiable and gentle qualities, left an impression upon me, which I have never lost. She seemed to me a truly noble specimen of a woman and I cannot doubt she will form the subject of a most interesting Biography.

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*From Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, Boston, Mass.*

Her Historical labors and her Christian character alike, were worthy of all praise. I noticed her death briefly, at the meeting of our Historical Society, (of which she was a Corresponding member,) in February.

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*From D. C. Gilman, New Haven, Conn.*

I trust that there will be a fuller tribute to her memory, than the little sketch you have sent me, appropriate as that is. She has done so much to perpetuate the memory of the good deeds of others, that her own name and services to the State ought to be commemorated.

Her moral and religious worth every one will acknowledge—but it is not every one who knows, or can appreciate her industry, skill, enthusiasm, and success as the pioneer among our local historians. I trust you will pardon me for expressing the hope that this literary phase of her character will not be lightly passed over.

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*From George E. Perkins, Norwich, Conn.*

It is unnecessary to indulge in extended remarks on the life and character of one who needs no other memorial than the lovely example of womanly virtues and Christian graces she exhibited in the sphere in which she has lived and labored. Unambitious, unselfish, she put her hand to every good work that fell within her sphere of responsibility.

Like Mary of Bethany she chose the good part, which ever afterward she valued as a well-spring of happiness; and which was, I have no doubt, her consolation and support when she suddenly received the summons from the Master to enter upon higher services and purer joys in his Kingdom above.

I always esteemed her as a friend sincere and reliable, as a woman of refined sensibilities and culture, as a Christian—cheerful, active, consistent; and in her death, I feel that all her acquaintances experience a common bereavement.

When I saw on the casket that contained the precious remains of your dear sister, those beautiful and fragrant flowers—they called to mind the words of an old poet:

"Only the actions of the just,  
Smell sweet and blossom from the dust."



## IN MEMORIAM.

## FRANCES MANWARING CAULKINS.

" We thought her dying when she slept  
And sleeping when she died."

Let her rest,—  
Fold the hands upon her breast,  
No more deeds of olden time  
Will they trace in prose or rhyme;  
All her work is nobly done,—  
God hath set his seal thereon.

Hidden quite,  
Under lids so cold and white,  
Those dark eyes whose lambent light  
Steadfast gleamed like stars by night;  
Tender eyes, that oft grew dim  
O'er another's grief or sin.

Happy eyes  
That mid heavenly harmonies,  
Open wide in glad surprise,  
On the joys of Paradise,  
Finding each Ideal complete,  
Clothed in Beauty exquisite.

So 'tis best,  
Thus to enter into rest:  
No more days of racking pain,  
Throbbing nerve and aching brain;  
She hath triumphed o'er Death's Sting  
Perfected through suffering.

Wake O Earth!  
Call thy fairest treasures forth!  
Buds and flowers to deck her tomb—  
Hyacinth's empurpled bloom,  
Arbutus and violets dim,  
Pink-hued Indian Moccasin.

Let the hours,  
Numbered be by troops of flowers  
She will love them none the less  
With the lilies on her breast,  
Both alike she knows to be,  
Emblems of Christ's purity.

Dust to Dust!  
Lay her down in perfect trust;  
Fragile form and sweet, pale face  
Soul so rich in Christian grace,—  
Patient, tender, true and good  
Noblest type of womanhood.

Hear our cry,  
By thy tears at Bethany,—  
While we offer thanks to Thee,  
For her fair humanity!  
Thou hast taken—all the same  
Weeping, Lord, we bless thy name!

MARTHA RUSSELL, *Washington, D. C.*



## OBITUARY NOTICE BY REV. THOMAS P. FIELD, D.D.

It is with emotions of deep grief that we record the death of one widely known and warmly loved in this community—Miss FRANCES M. CAULKINS.

Rarely does death take from us one over whose departure we have so much cause to mourn. But the memory of her worth soothes our sorrow, and turns the eye of faith to the home of rest to which the spirit has gone.

It is not now a fitting time to speak of the invaluable services which Miss Caulkins has rendered to this town and the neighboring town of Norwich. Her thorough, accurate and interesting histories will be a monument to her memory more enduring than marble; and will be more and more highly appreciated as time goes on. Few knew the early history not only of our own region, but of New England, as she knew it, and it is interesting to see how much she accomplished, with her feeble health, to make that history known to others.

Miss Caulkins was a lover not only of history, but of all good literature. She had an extensive acquaintance with books and authors. She was exceedingly fond of poetry, and the poetic productions of her own pen often adorned the columns of this and other papers, and cheered the Christian assembly and the social gathering of friends. The writer of this remembers how deeply he was impressed by a little poem of hers on the "Bell of the Atlantic" many years before he knew personally the author. Indeed, what was beautiful in art or nature always found in her a sympathizing admirer.

This extensive knowledge and general culture, united to a most amiable, kind and genial spirit, made her conversation exceedingly interesting and instructive. And it was interesting to all persons. She made no pretentious show of learning, or talent, or knowledge, but had a childlike simplicity of character that would attract the hearts of all, young or old, learned or unlearned. She was uniformly cheerful, and often sparkling and witty in what she said, although there was scarcely ever a day in her life in which she was not a sufferer. But even when she suffered, grace enabled her to "put a cheerful courage on" so that others should not suffer also. And this was her sustaining, comforting power, always, the grace of God in Christ. She loved history, she loved literature, she loved nature, but she loved, above all, the Lord Jesus Christ. The church was near her heart. The services of the Sabbath and the sanctuary were her delight. She wept over the loss by fire of the house where she had so long worshiped, and took great interest in the erection of a new temple to the Lord. But though local attachments were strong, she looked out widely upon the world, and noted, with the deepest interest, the extension of Christ's kingdom in our land, and in all lands.

So, as her friends stand around her lifeless form, or drop the silent tear upon her cheek, they are comforted. There is nothing to awaken anguish of soul, but only that her sorrow that bows the heart in acquiescence to the will Supreme. She expressed the fear, shortly before death, that she might have to suffer long, but she was spared that trial; and gently and without long continued pain, she fell asleep. May her beautiful life and patient sufferings, and sure hope, be a new incitement to Christian activity and duty, and turn all our hearts to Him who can take away the sting of death, and make us victorious over the grave.—*From the New London Star, Thursday Evening, February 4, 1869.*

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*From the Congregationalist, by Rev. G. B. Willcox.*

Miss Frances Manwaring Caulkins, a historian, a poet, and a Christian of rare genius and character, died in New London, Conn., Feb. 3d. Born in 1795, she passed much of the earlier part of her life in teaching. Three foreign missionaries, two wives of senators, and other women of high position and great influence, were among the nearly four hundred young ladies who were at one time or another under her care.

Her historical studies commenced earlier in life than most readers of her work have imagined. At ten years of age she was missed one day by the family, who in some anxiety began a thorough search. After a while the child was found in a corner of the garret poring over an old history of Connecticut. The volumes she gave to the world in her character as an annalist, were *The History of Norwich* in 1845, that of *New London* in 1852, and a far larger and more elaborate *History of Norwich* in 1856. The last two were octavos of 678 and 704 pages, and cost her an immense amount of labor. These works won her the thanks and eulogiums of such historians



as Bancroft, and such statesmen as Robert C. Winthrop. The first of the three led to her election as the *only* female member of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

To the "American Messenger" she contributed often, from its first issues, chiefly in verse, but occasionally in prose. For the Tract Society in New York she prepared the "Tract Primer," both educational and religious in its character, which has had, especially among the Freedmen, an immense circulation. Two volumes of her poetry have been published by this society, and materials for another remain, which will probably soon be put to press.

But it was as a Christian, rather than as a historian or poet, that she would have wished to be remembered. Her religious experience at conversion, amidst the great revival of 1831, was as her letters show, of a really wonderful depth and power. There was all the searching and drastic "law work" which, in so many more recent conversions, seems sadly wanting. "You cannot know," she wrote to a friend, "anything of the agonies suffered by a soul for which two opposite powers have so long struggled for the mastery." From the gloam of this valley of the shadow of death she came out into a cloudless morning, and thenceforward, to the close of her long life, gloried above all things in the Cross.

Three traits stood prominent in her character. One was incessant and untiring industry. She was not only of an active mind by nature, but *conscientious* in the use of her time. There was nothing in her of the notion that, so one's sacred hours are well spent, it matters little, on secular days, whether one works or idles. A thing well done was no reason, in her judgment, for sitting down to enjoy it and have her self congratulations over it, but rather going at once about some other thing to be done better still. At times, especially toward the close of her life, she was, like all other efficient and noble souls, oppressed with a feeling that she had done nothing, that her life had almost run to waste. She compared herself with a standard, aimed at a mark so high, that, of course, being human, she was always far below it.

Another beauty in her character was the law of kindness on her lips. The fixed principle of her life was never to speak to the prejudice of any one, except when some positive duty required it. And she was well aware how lenient positive duty is in making any such demand. This gentleness of speech was the more remarkable, as she was just of the decided and efficient character that is least likely to be patient, most apt to pass harsh judgments. She was not one of those who are amiable because really too lazy to be anything else. She could always find an apology for anybody's failings but her own, because she looked for it not so much in the person concerned as in her own charitable heart.

Another quality was her singular cheerfulness. Much afflicted with disease and often in pain, she had nothing to say of her ailments, no words to waste in repining. Lowell's fountain

"Into the star-light  
Rushing in spray ;  
Happy at midnight,  
Happy by day ;"

is the best type of her common mood. She enjoyed the sports of children as intensely as children themselves. She had at three score years and ten, none of the sour and doleful views of life so common to aged people—none of the complaint "that the former days were better than these." A relative has well outlined her character in the words, "loving the past, enjoying the present, hopeful of the future."

The following lines, found among her private papers, and perhaps the last she ever wrote, breathe in fitting words her aspirations for the heaven to which she has gone :

This one word, home ! no sweeter sound  
The voice of man e'er breathed around ;  
'Twas heaven that warmed earth's frozen ground,  
With this bright hearth-stone, home !

Sweet word ! the echo from a gate,  
Wherein the chiming angels wait,  
With glowing hearts and harps elate  
To welcome pilgrims home.

Like tuneful air, or silvery flame,  
Shook from a seraph's wing it came ;  
What speech but that of heaven could frame  
So sweet a word as home ?



When worldly cares distracting rise,  
 When winds are wild and dark the skies,  
 On Thee, O Lord! my soul relies;  
 Where Thou art, there is home.

Soon may it come, that joyful day,  
 When, sin and sorrow swept away,  
 Thou to my leaping heart shalt say  
 Come home, my child, come home!

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[The three pieces following are selected from numerous papers found after the author's death, and have never before been published.]

### I'M GROWING OLD.

A blight is on my leaves I see;  
 My root is passing into mould,  
 I hear a whisper in the tree,—  
 I'm growing old.

My flowery May, my summer skies,  
 Behind me lie, like maps uprolled;  
 October fills the air with sighs,—  
 I'm growing old.

Mid gleaming lights and pleasing shades,  
 My youth's bright rain-bow did unfold;  
 The rain-bow into gray mist fades,—  
 I'm growing old.

My days ran down in sunsets bright,  
 My minutes shone like beaded gold;  
 Days, minutes now, are all twilight,—  
 I'm growing old.

Gay meadow larks, my friends and I,  
 In song and flight our joys we told;  
 No more, alas! I sing or fly,  
 I'm growing old.

Those early friends, like melting snow  
 Like streamlets into ocean rolled,  
 Passed off and left me murmuring low,  
 I'm growing old.

But yet the burden of my ery,  
 The weight, the sting, I have not told;  
 A mightier anguish prompts the cry,  
 I'm growing old.

For I have left undone God's will;  
 My large thoughts lie but half enrolled,  
 With great designs unacted still,  
 I'm growing old.

With darkness round me asking light,  
 With lead to transmute into gold;  
 With wounds to heal and wrongs to right,  
 I'm growing old.



God hath a blest idea in mind,  
 For each true servant to unfold;  
 Ere I that primal task can find,  
 I'm growing old.

F. M. C.

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### ASPIRATION.

Lord, from thy molding hands I came,  
 O take me back to Thee:  
 I feel within the glowing flame,  
 Lent by thy breath to me.

I long beyond earth's narrow space,  
 Thy golden tracks to see;  
 And in the fulness of thy grace,  
 To lose myself in Thee.

In thy great light, O let me hide,  
 And shine alone in Thee:  
 O'erwhelmed in love's celestial tide,  
 A drop in thy great sea.

Made of thy dust, thy spark of fire,  
 Thy child, I fain would be;  
 Thy work,—I yearn with strong desire,  
 To work, O God, with Thee.

Launched outward with a high-born aim,  
 On rapture's heavenly sea;  
 A soul that from thy bounty came,  
 Returns to worship Thee.

F. M. C.

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This little fragment, found among her papers, might be entitled—

### A PROPHECIC DREAM.

Wearily I lay down and soon I slept.  
 I waked and was not here, but elsewhere lived.  
 Awful had been the dread of that great change;  
 Yet with a sweet transition it was made,  
 As on a floating stream of low soft praise,  
 Four parts in one, love, ransom, peace and joy,—  
 Conscious of nought but that celestial sound,  
 Upon the sweet assurance calm I lay,  
 And passed from life into eternity.

F. M. C.



## THE ATLANTIC'S BELL.

The *Atlantic*, a fine new Steamer belonging to the Norwich and Worcester R. Road Co., was lost on Fisher's Island near the entrance of New London Harbor, Thursday, Nov. 26, 1846. Forty-two persons perished with the wreck.

[When the steamer struck the shore, the dashing of the waves against her frame caused the bell to toll. The tone of this bell is uncommonly shrill and clear, and heard at such a time must have seemed like a peal from another world. It has been frequently heard since the consummation of the catastrophe, and is still sending forth at intervals, its solemn and piercing sound.]

Storm-spirits ye did well,  
To swing the funeral bell,  
That sad night;  
Noting down with iron pen,  
When the struggling souls of men  
Took their flight.

Mid the raging tumult round,  
How the shrill entrancing sound,  
Fills the air!  
Over mastering the gale,  
Childhood's shriek, woman's wail,  
Man's despair.

From eternity's dark land,  
On whose cold brink they stand,  
Hark! it rolls;  
Pealing forth the notes of woe,  
Ringing loud, ringing slow,  
For the souls.

Ah! 'tis not the broken deck,  
*Man*, *man's* the only wreck,  
Worth a tear!  
Oh ye seas! what a prize,  
What a costly sacrifice,  
Ye took here!

Yet they perished not in vain:  
From their peril, from their pain,  
Let us turn  
To the lessons they unrolled,  
Worth an argosy of gold,  
But to learn.

For the sons of God were there,  
Men of faith, men of prayer  
Unsurpassed;  
And the love of Christ had power;  
'Twas an anchor in that hour,  
Holding fast.

There was *one*<sup>1</sup> whose face was seen,  
Like a shining and serene  
Crystal sea:  
Sublimed, as if the soul  
Had already passed the goal,  
And was free.

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<sup>1</sup>Dr. Armstrong of Boston. The serene and heavenly expression of his countenance during the whole of that trying Thursday, has been mentioned by several of the survivors.



There was *one*<sup>1</sup> of manly brow,  
 " *We are nearer Jesus now,*"  
 Was his cry :  
 Then the rushing surge swept o'er  
 And the loosened seraph bore  
 To the sky.

*One* calmly said,<sup>2</sup> " Of old  
 My Saviour's voice controlled  
 All my woe ;  
 And if through the raging sea,  
 Now he says, *Follow me,*  
 I will go."

No thought amid the strife,  
 Of his own death or life,  
 Had the chief ;<sup>3</sup>  
 The burden on his breast,  
 Was the lives of all the rest,  
 And their grief.

They dropped into the wave :—  
 Some found in it a grave,  
 Some an ark :  
 Down, down into the deep,  
 As they fall, as they leap,  
 Hark ! oh hark !

Now the loud and silvery bell  
 Like an anthem seemed to swell,  
 Shrill and sweet !  
 And a group of angels came,  
 With their bosoms all in flame,  
 Friends to meet.

They caught the jewels bright,  
 As they burst forth in light,  
 From the clay ;  
 And the souls and seraphim  
 In a sweet thanksgiving hymn  
 Passed away.

Yet still upon the deck,  
 Mid the breakers and the wreck  
 Swings the bell ;  
 Now an anthem floats around,  
 Now a low and dirge-like sound,  
 And a knell.

Above the thundering breeze,  
 And the heavy booming seas,  
 Peals its woe,  
 Like a requiem in the air,  
 Wildly mournful : it is there,  
 Swinging slow.

<sup>1</sup> This gentleman, (whose name was not known to the passengers who related the circumstance,) was heard several times expressing his confidence in God, and encouraging others to trust in him. He was in the saloon, and was heard to utter the words quoted above, just as the sea broke over and dashed the saloon from the deck, crushing or drowning all who were in it.

<sup>2</sup> A gentleman from Ohio : name not known.

<sup>3</sup> The noble self-forgetfulness of Capt. Dustan cannot be too highly praised, since it seemed to spring from a high sense of the responsibility of his post, and his duty as a man and a Christian.



# HISTORY OF NORWICH.

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## CHAPTER I.

### INTRODUCTORY AND DESCRIPTIVE.

NORWICH, when purchased of the Indians, June 6, 1659, consisted of a tract of wild land nine miles square, in the heart of the Mohegan territory, at the head of what was then called Mohegan or Pequot river. This area comprised the present towns of Norwich, Bozrah, Franklin, Lisbon, Sprague, and the western border of Griswold and Preston, embracing Jewett's City, Long Society, and a part of Poquetannock.

The *Shetucket* river flows in a semicircular sweep through the eastern portion of this area, receiving the *Quinebaug* about three miles before it reaches the Thames. The *Quinebaug* comes down with a rapid current through a country abounding in hills and valleys, rugged and abrupt, and has its channel frequently encumbered with ledges of rock. Its name in the Indian tongue signified Long Pond,—the flowing river bearing with it in its course the name of its fountain head. It is a larger stream than the *Shetucket*, yet the Indians, after the junction, continued the name of the minor branch, and this practice has been very properly retained, since the united stream, both in its course and the nature of its current, seems to be a continuation of the *Shetucket* rather than of the *Quinebaug*.

The *Shetucket* was formerly noted for its abundant supply of shad. Just below the mouth of the *Quinebaug* they were caught in April and May by *driving the river*. Pens were constructed in the shallow waters, and the fishermen, plunging into the river with bushes in their hands, drove the fish into these inclosures, where they were caught by hand and thrown into baskets. Shad and other fish are still found in the river, but not of the size and flavor of former times, and far less abundant.

The *Yantic* is a small romantic stream flowing east and southeast, affording by its declination and consequent rapidity various sites for mills and manufacturing establishments. The brooks and rivulets that swell it to the size of a little river come from Lebanon, Colchester and Bozrah.



The largest stream issues from Gardner's Lake, the Mashipaug of the Indians, a fine sheet of water that forms a corner bound to the three towns of Colchester, Bozrah and Montville.

About a mile before the Yantic meets the Shetucket, while flowing south, it suddenly sweeps round in an easterly direction, and coming upon a bed of rocks, plunges over a ledge twelve or fifteen feet in height, and still descending, works its way amid the heaped up rocky masses, through a narrow chasm between perpendicular cliffs to the level basin below. These are the well-known Norwich Falls, which at the time of a spring flood suddenly swell into sublimity, spanning the river with a sheet of foam, and filling the ravine with a heavy roar.

Escaping from this compression, the river turns again to the south, and in a gentle current passes onward to meet the Shetucket, and in their union they become the Thames.

The whole course of the Thames from Norwich to its entrance into Long Island Sound is about fourteen miles. It is navigable from its mouth to Gale-town village, more than half its length, for vessels drawing twenty-five feet of water. Ships of the line might at all times of the tide ascend to a distance of nine or ten miles; but above this the channel is impeded by bars and sand-banks, which are frequently changed in their position by the spring floods, and aggravated by the sand brought down from the Shetucket.\*

The Thames in earlier days was widely known for its lavish abundance of fish. The shad, alewives, bass, mackerel, eels, oysters, and lobsters, were nowhere to be found in larger quantity or greater perfection. Sturgeon and other large fish often wandered into the stream, and have been known to leap into a passing boat.†

It was chronicled in the Boston News-Letter, just after the great freshet of February, 1729, that Norwich river was swarming with fish to such an extent that 20,000 bass had been caught within a few days just below the Landing. This might have been a larger amount than usual, but every year at the breaking up of the ice, there was a great demand, far and near, for the striped bass of Norwich river.

In a newspaper of 1771, it was noticed that 300 barrels of mackerel had been taken that season in the river between New London and Norwich, and that six barrels were filled from the contents of a single seine. The river has not entirely lost its character for supplies of fish, but the abundance varies with varying seasons, and incessant navigation has had its usual effect in scattering the finny tribes.

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\* In 1806, the Channel Company, after dredging the river, reported nine feet of water at common tide, the whole distance from Norwich to New London.

† So recently as May, 1861, a sturgeon (called in the marine vernacular, Albany beef,) was caught above Gale's Ferry, which weighed 125 lbs.



It was long before the river attained a fixed and popular name. It was called indifferently the Pequot or Mohegan river. At what period or by whose suggestion it began to be called the Thames, is uncertain, but the name is an easy sequence to that of New London. London on the Thames seems to require that the river of New London should be the New Thames, and probably the name slid into usage without any definite beginning or sponsorship. The aboriginal name has not been recovered, but there can be little hesitation in assuming that it was the term which signified in the Indian tongue, *Great River*,—this being the first distinctive name applied to it by the English, and the one long in use among the Mohegans.

In its present dimensions, Norwich covers an area of twenty-six square miles. The greatest extent is from Trading Cove brook to Plain Hill, which measures seven miles; its medium breadth is about three. In point of scenery it is one of the most picturesque towns in New England, presenting a pleasing variety of high and low ground, forest and field, rock and river. It displays a multiplicity of slopes and side-hills; every turn brings forth a new landscape; every height offers a fresh expanse of interesting details. It is beautiful in its contrasts and its harmonies; beautiful beyond comparison in its circling streams, its umbrageous parks and rural avenues. In the pursuits of life, rare combinations of apparently opposing interests are here embraced in one municipal bond. Tasteful and costly dwellings, the refinements of social life, means of high mental culture, and all the aspects of elegant retirement, are found in strange proximity with crowded places of business, the bustle and haste of railroads and wharves, and the tremulous, unceasing roar and confusion of innumerable mills and machine shops.

There are many points of observation within the limits of the town, that may be called mounts of vision. From Plain Hill on the northwest boundary the prospect is broad and noble, expanding almost to vastness and sublimity. The Old Parsonage or Meeting-House hill in the Town-plot commands a lovely valley warm with life, where the quiet abodes of man seem in perfect harmony with the works of nature. From Ox-hill, east of the Town-plot, there is a view of surpassing beauty, ample and panoramic, the outlines composed of those interminable woods which are the relieving shadows of all American scenery.

The high grounds in and around Chelsea afford a still greater variety of prospect. In addition to woodland grandeur and village beauty, the eye takes in the clustered, crowded city, the neighboring villages, and a long reach of the river with its diversified banks, combining several distinct landscapes in one view.

In historical interest Norwich holds a prominent position. It has an aboriginal as well as an English and American history. The first planters were a body of men who displayed much of the genuine old English



character, and left the impress of their origin deeply stamped upon their laws and regulations. The two most noted founders of the town, Major John Mason and the Rev. James Fitch, were remarkable men, and various individuals of more than common note have, first and last, issued from this community. In Revolutionary times the inhabitants stood boldly forth in resistance to oppression, and were among the first in the country to turn their attention to certain manufactures for which the colonies had been kept dependent upon Great Britain. In later times it has become still more distinguished for the variety, quantity and value of its manufactured products. These circumstances, in connection with the diversified scenery, have given a name and character to the town, which make it more conspicuous than many others of greater numerical importance.

In some respects Norwich has been peculiarly favored by Providence. It has never been visited by any extraordinary visitation of disease, or crushed by any sudden calamity. In common with other parts of the country it has met with financial reverses; it has had periods of depression, when improvements ceased and business of all kinds ran to a low ebb, throwing it backward in its career for a time, and obliging it to retrace the steps to prosperity. But neither war, nor treason, nor famine, nor plague, nor whirlwind, nor life-destroying floods, nor widely desolating flames, have ever imperiled its welfare. Since the Nine-miles-square was bought of the Indians, no embattled foe has been seen in the territory. The greatest of outward disasters has been an occasional loss from flood or fire; the destruction of a church, a factory, or dwelling-house, the rupture of a bridge, or the submerging of a wharf.

Norwich, beside its central division, the city, consists of several distinct portions or villages, stretching like wings along the banks of the Shetucket and Yantic, with a background of hills and woods, interspersed with farms moderately fertile, surrounding the whole area. At the northwest, three and a half miles distant from the port, and bordering closely upon Bozrah and Franklin, is the village of

#### *Yantic.*

This section of the town retains its aboriginal name. At the time of the settlement, the whole district beyond Bean Hill was called Yantic, or Yantuck. Strips of meadow land at Yantuck were among the earliest grants dealt out to the planters, and highly prized as affording native grass for their cattle. But the name was probably derived from the river, the syllable *tick*, or *tuck*, usually denoting in the Indian tongue, a stream of water.

The village is wholly of modern growth; built up since 1820, and mainly dependent upon the manufacturing interest for its business and population. Here in former times were the Backus iron-works; the



Backus mansion, and a range of woods, meadows and rugged heights belonging to the Backus family. Beyond these were the West Farms and the Hyde tavern. Various branches of the Backus family, scattered over the Union, look back to this place for their ancestors.

Yantic is also the birth-place of the late Joseph Otis, to whom Norwich is indebted for its public library. His father wrought in these old iron-works, and his boyhood was spent in this secluded hamlet. It was here that he acquired habits of industry and perseverance, and what education he had, was obtained at the Bean Hill school.

*Bean Hill*, in the early days of the settlement, was the northwestern limit of the town-plot. No house-lots were originally laid out beyond the point where the river crosses the main street. The platform of the hill, wisely left open for public use, was then probably covered with forest trees. It is still shaded in part by a fine old elm, the successor of one of great size and symmetry, which, according to tradition, was verging toward decay when the settlement commenced. Under the shadow of this elm dynasty, in former times when Bean Hill was noted for its business and gaiety, tables were spread, speeches made, and sermons preached. Here neighbors gathered to hear the news, and teamsters loitered in the heat of the day.

The *Town-plot*, the oldest part of Norwich, originally consisted of one long, irregular street, winding around the hills, and following the course of the Yantic. It retains still the same outline, with but little variation from its first laying out. The streets, the house-lots, the garden-plots, are the same, and in many places the old first-built walls and fences remain. Near the center is an open square or plain, hedged in on the north by a range of high ground, rocky and precipitous. In the early days of the settlement, on the summit of this hill, towering over the plain, stood the venerated House of Worship, for many years the only public gathering-place for a Christian assembly in the Nine-miles-square. The neighboring heights were doubtless crowned with woods, and the rocks, now so bare, decked with a luxuriant growth of moss-tufts and creepers. How beautiful the ascent to this Mount Zion!—the venerable Mr. Fitch leading the way, and his pilgrim followers, old and young, singly or in groups, scattered along the pathway and gathering at the sacred porch.

At the end of the first century from the settlement, the church, no longer necessary as a look-out post of the town, came down from the hill, and took its position at the corner of the Green, where it now stands.

This Plain, or Green, was the place where trades, merchandize, public business, military exercises, shows, sports, festivals, and the general enterprize of the town, found a center. The County Jail stood on the north side at the foot of the hill; the Court-House was in the open area; the Post-Office not far from the meeting-house; two printing-offices, within a



stone's throw at the west, and taverns, schools and shops alternating with private dwellings around the border.

The Court-House in 1798 was removed to the site once occupied by the dwelling of Capt. John Mason, (the first house built in Norwich,) where it now stands, and since the transfer of the courts to Chelsea, has been used for a school-house. Trade, noise, bustle and gaiety have left the precincts; the taverns are closed, and the peace and quiet of the *Happy Valley* seem to have obtained undisturbed possession of this charming plain.

Yet the germs of mental and moral power are quick with life beneath the calm green of these quiet scenes. Character draws strength and elasticity from the soil. From this nucleus issue forth bright spirits, one after another, who take positions east or west and radiate light through other spheres. Latent fire is at work in the heart of a society from which proceed such young men as Herr Driesbach, the lion-tamer;\* Aaron S. Stephens, the unfortunate participator in the measures of John Brown; Edward Harland, a brigadier-general at the age of twenty-five; merchants for other cities, ministers for many pulpits, and patriot soldiers to die for the Union.

Honor to the old Town-plot. It is still worthy of its founders, the Masons, the Fitches, the Huntingtons, Hydes, Tracys, Leffingwells and Lathrops of the ancient settlement.

The *Falls Village* lies in a hollow bend of the Yantic, just where it rushes over the rocks through a winding channel into the cove leading to the Thames. It is wholly of manufacturing origin, and with the exception of an old mill-seat, and a dwelling-house built by Elijah Lathrop, is the growth of the last half century.

The Water-Fall at this place was formerly regarded as one of the most interesting natural curiosities in this part of the country. So much of the stream has been diverted from its original headlong course over the parapet of rocks, for mechanical uses, that the description given of the cataract sixty years ago seems exaggerated. It is only at the spring floods, when the swollen river comes roaring through the chasm, filling the channel from side to side, that we can realize the old picturesque grandeur of the scene.

It then becomes easy for the imagination to re-people the landscape with savage combatants, and to discern amid the noise of the falling water, distant echoes of the war-whoop. The perpendicular cliff that walls the chasm suggests the old tradition, and the Indian tragedy seems again acted before us. The panting Narragansetts come suddenly amid the thick

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\* Samuel, son of Consider Sterry, is supposed to be identical with this hero of the hippodrome,—Herr Driesbach being the name assumed when he became a circus actor.



woods upon the edge of the precipice, and plunge, or are driven by their victorious pursuers, over the battlements upon the pointed rocks below.

*Chelsea Plain* in its whole extent from the range of hills by which it is circumscribed on the east, to the brink of No-man's Acre, is without rocks, and resembles an alluvial formation, or the bed of a lake. Gravel and rounded stones, differing in their character from the gneiss and hornblende of the neighboring heights, are found a few feet below the surface. The form of the land in its descent toward the river, the clefts in the banks, and various peculiar configurations, suggest the idea of some violent force exerted in past ages, such as the rush of retiring waters and the fitful sweep of an eddy.\*

This Plain is a very beautiful part of Norwich. Here is the Free Academy, a magnificent building planted in the midst of ample space, with a romantic woodland for its background,—the broad and open Park,—the Uncas Monument, overshadowed with almost sepulchral gloom,—a small but tasteful church,—the Yantic Cemetery, already rich in its memorials of departed worth, and continually amassing sacred treasures,—many elegant private mansions, gracefully varied in age, style and position, and everywhere groups and columns of towering, interlacing trees.

It is on this plain that we may with some degree of probability fix the seat of an Indian sachem and a village of wigwams prior to the English settlements. The Yantic cove below, we may assume, was their canoe-place, for like other savages they would naturally congregate at the foot of a waterfall. Near at hand is the ravine by which they ascended to the plain, where stood their matted tents and corn-fields. Waweekus Hill, the rock-browed head of Norwich, looking down the river and commanding the entrance to the streams on either side, was their watch-post and place of refuge. This we may infer from its ancient name of Fort Hill. They have, moreover, left arrow-heads and stone pestles embedded in the soil, and their royal burying-ground on the brink of the upland, to attest their residence and identify their aboriginal character.

The *City*, or central part of Norwich, encompasses the meeting-place of the Yantic, the Shetucket, and the Thames, spreading over both sides of each of these three rivers. It is an assemblage of side-hills and hill-tops, with rivers gliding at their feet. The upper streets are declivities, and the buildings lie in tiers one above another. In ascending the river by night, the houses on the hill seem suspended in the air. The lower streets have either been won from the water, or blasted out of the rock. The bold projections along the border line have been moulded into foundations for wharves, offices, and freight-houses. Central Wharf, a stupendous platform covered with shops, factories, and machinery of various kinds,

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\* The elevation of the Plain above the level of Shetucket and Main streets, at their intersection, according to an old measurement of surveyors, was 78 feet.



and affording facilities for an extensive trade in coal and lumber, has been wholly created, and a railway laid along the semicircular border of the promontory forms a connecting link between the railroads to Amherst and to Worcester, which run from hence northwest and northeast, leaving Norwich between them at their point of junction.

In this part of Norwich since 1835 the advance in the style of buildings, both public and private, has been surprisingly rapid,—almost like the changes of imagery in an enchanter's mirror. Churches, banks,—and among the most recent, the noble bank building in Shetucket street, standing upon the brink of a ledge of rock, with the narrow, dark river far down in its rear,—mercantile blocks, armories and machine-shops, school-houses of grand proportion and finished detail, the Wauregan Hotel, the Otis Library, Breed Hall, one after another, have taken their places in the scene. Elegant mansions, in all the various styles of cottage, city, country and castellated architecture, erected at a cost varying from five to forty thousand dollars, and collecting around them groves and gardens of exquisite beauty, rise along the streets and extend over the hills. So great are the transformations, that absentees of fifteen or twenty years, on returning are embarrassed in endeavoring to trace out their former haunts. Taste and enterprise, led on by prosperity, are in continual operation, creating the new, remodeling the old, transforming the rude into the elegant, the barren cliff to a verdant terrace, and gullies of sand and gravel to gardens of fruitfulness and bloom.

*West Chelsea* was formerly noted for ship building. Not only common trading vessels, but ships of considerable size, were constructed here under disadvantages which energy and perseverance only could have conquered, the narrowness of the river making it necessary to launch them side-ways or diagonally.

Oak-spring hill, Baptist hill and Mount Pleasant are names by which this high district has been locally known at different periods. Here, under the shade of venerable trees, far above the level of the river, above the line of numberless chimneys and tree-tops, springs of pure water that have never been known to fail, rise to the surface of the earth. For many years one of these perpetual fountains has supplied a portion of the city with water.

This hill was in former times covered with a stately forest, and until a recent period all the roads and pathways on this side of the river led through woods and thickets. Streets and houses are now extending over the heights, and the waste lands are rapidly passing into gardens and cultivated fields.

Below *West Chelsea*, on the river, is a place formerly known as a retreat for fishing boats, with here and there a farm house in sight upon the bank, and called *Bushnell's Cove*. A distillery was an old occupant of



the Point, and a house near by was at one time kept as a tavern. Since the year 1850, an entire change has been effected in this locality, and the present appearance is no more like the former than if a new creation had taken place. Mitchell's iron works, Wetmore's ship-yard, and the commercial enterprise of J. M. Huntington & Co., have transformed this secluded station into a thriving village, which lies within the city bounds, but is distinguished by the appropriate name of

*Thamesville.*

A vast amount of labor has here been expended in leveling, grading and building. The high banks have been broken up and gradually deposited at the river side, changing the marshes and shallows into acres of solid ground. By perseverance and capital, overcoming obstacles, ample space and facilities for business have been obtained, and the village now exhibits several handsome dwelling houses, a steam engine and machine factory, a well prepared ship-yard, convenient wharfage and a quay, with all the necessary appurtenances of workshops, warehouses and tenements.

On the east side of the river, below the mouth of the Shetucket, is the wild and romantic district of *Laurel Hill*, one of the youngest of the Norwich group of villages. So late as 1850, this bank of the river remained chiefly in its natural condition, abrupt, rocky and uncultivated, with a single farm-house in an extent of two or three miles.

It has had no magic touch from the wand of manufacture, no mines or marble quarries lurk beneath the surface; it stands apart from the clash of mills and machinery, but under the management of taste and enterprise, pleasant homes and fertile gardens have risen along the rugged slopes, bursting out one after another, like the old laurel blossoms, for which the place was noted, at the call of June. The first dwelling house was erected in 1852. It numbers at the present time, (1865,) 45 houses; has 70 scholars for the public schools, and sends 50 voters to the polls.

*East Chelsea* was originally the least desirable of all the suburbs of the city. The river swept over it at every freshet, and receding, left it covered with the stones and rubbish that came down imbedded in the ice-blocks, or torn up by the impetuosity of the current. Hence, probably, it obtained the descriptive name of Swallow-all. Franklin street was a rugged lane winding into the woods between Stony Brook and Burial Ground hill. The brook itself, alternately a quiet stream and a roaring torrent, having received its petty branches and its tributary pond, flowed into the Shetucket, crossing Main street in the line of Franklin Square.

The brook and the massive stones that covered it, are now far beneath the surface of the street, the soil having accumulated above to the depth of several feet. Churches, handsome houses, mercantile blocks, a railroad depot, and various forms of business, occupy the once neglected surface.

Franklin street, elevated, widened, lengthened, and lined with buildings



on either side, has become a busy thoroughfare and the seat of several large manufacturing establishments; among them are the gigantic works of the Norwich Arms Company, which, during the pressure of the war, had the workmen at command, and the machinery in operation, capable of turning out 400 finished muskets per day.\*

*Greeneville*, on the Shetucket, was indebted, in its origin, to the foresight and well-directed enterprise of William C. Gilman and William P. Greene. The former made the first purchase; the latter followed out and completed the grand design, and is imperishably connected with its name.

It was founded upon manufacturing privileges. Dams, canals and factories were here coeval with dwelling houses and families. A first specimen of each sat down together in 1829, and these rapidly grew into a community. A school was established in 1832, a Congregational church organized January 1st, 1833, and a house for worship completed in 1835.

Greeneville affords a striking illustration of the success with which, under the influence of wise regulations and liberal patronage, an assemblage of various nations and pursuits may be wrought into a prosperous and well-ordered community. This village has now several large factories, with the great Shetucket Cotton Mill and the mammoth Chelsea paper-mill at their head; three churches, an excellent system of graded schools, and a population of 3,000 or more, gathered from five different nations,—ranking them in the order of numbers,—Irish, American, Scotch, English and German. So far they have worked well together, and give promise of soon becoming a homogeneous community.

This cursory survey of Norwich is sufficient to show how richly she has been endowed by nature with sources of prosperity and with what happy results these facilities have been thus far improved.

In available sites for manufactories the town is peculiarly favored.

It is surrounded by a farming region, fertile, extensive and well cultivated, which makes it advantageous as an agricultural market.

Its situation at the head of a navigable river gives it facilities for furnishing supplies to a widely extended back country and to the numerous mill seats and villages that occupy the tributary streams.

#### POPULATION.

1756—5,540, of whom 223 were colored.

1774—7,321. 1,024 families; 901 dwelling-houses.

1779—7,187.

1780—6,541.

#### AFTER THE DIVISION OF THE TOWN.

1790—3,284.

1800—3,476.

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\* See article "Norwich Armories," in Harper's Magazine for March, 1864.



Census taken by Benjamin Tracy at the close of the year 1810 :

Free white males,	1,554
Free white females,	1,807
Free colored persons,	152
Slaves,	12

Total,	3,525
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1820—3,624.

1830—5,179.

1840—Free white males,	3,254
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Free white females,	3,633
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Colored persons,	352
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Total,	7,239
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1850—10,265.

1860—14,058, of whom 361 were colored.

According to the Grand List of 1864, Norwich has 1727 dwelling-houses; 267 stores; 41 manufactories; 758 horses; 533 carriages; 613 time-keepers.

Total value of property, \$16,094,637; of taxable property, \$10,649,619.

Total number of polls registered, 1764; military exempts, 47; firemen, 296; other exempts, 107: total taxable polls, 1314.

It has seven banks, besides one for savings and a savings society that has been forty years in operation; four insurance companies; seventeen churches; eight school districts; thirty-nine public schools; and a Free Academy, open for an academical education to all the children of the town, free of expense, and without regard to sex or condition.

By the old stage route, from Norwich to New York is 128 miles; to New Haven, 58; to Boston, 80; to Hartford, 38, and about the same distance to Providence.

By the Norwich & Worcester Railroad, Boston is reached in four hours. By the Northern Railroad to New London, and the New Haven Railroad, New York is reached in six hours; by the Northern Railroad and the steamboat line connected with it, in eight or nine hours.

Latitude, 41°, 33', N.

Longitude, 72°, 7', W. of Greenwich.

#### MEASUREMENTS.

Line between Norwich and Lisbon, by the Shetucket river, 4 miles and a few rods.

Between Norwich and Franklin, 5½ miles.

Between Norwich and Bozrah, 4⅔ miles.

Between Norwich and Montville, by Trading Cove and brook, 3¾ miles.

From Trading Cove to the mouth of the Shetucket, 2 miles, 100 rods.

From thence by the river to Lathrop's bridge, 3 miles, 80 rods.

From 1st Society Court House to Lathrop's bridge, a little over 3 miles.

"	"	"	to Lovett's bridge, 4 miles.
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"	"	"	over Plain Hill to Franklin line, 4¼ miles.
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"	"	"	to Trading Cove, (New London road,) 3½ miles.
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"	"	"	to Wharf bridge, 2 miles.
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## CHAPTER II.

### ABORIGINAL HISTORY OF THE NINE-MILES-SQUARE.

WHEN the English began their settlements in the eastern part of Connecticut, they found the Mohegans claiming and holding by a kind of wandering possession, a large area back from the sea-coast, and extending far into the interior of the country. How was their title obtained? Not by inheritance or conquest, but apparently by stepping into vacancy and occupying the seats of an extinct or fugitive race. This appears to have been the origin of the right which Uncas had to the Nine-miles-square, and to several other fair towns, the ownership of which is derived from him and his sons. In point of fact, this title could not be fairly challenged; for as aborigines and as present sole occupants, their right was paramount to all others. The English had no claim beyond the line of their conquests on the sea-board.

But who were the antecedent inhabitants of the Nine-miles-square? What people had fished in its streams, swept over it with their hunting bands, and built their huts upon its area, not only before Mason and Fitch set up their pillars in the wilderness, but before Uncas became a sachem and his people a tribe? On this point no certainty has been obtained. The Pequots were the earliest children of the soil, of whom we have any knowledge. Beyond the Pequots we recede into darkness and oblivion.

A committee appointed by the Commissioners of the United Colonies to inquire into the claims of Uncas to the Pequot territory, made a report in 1663, which throws some light on the ancient condition of that tract of land which is now Norwich. They had consulted, they say, "old and creditable chiefs," and the testimony obtained goes a step beyond the Pequot war, and gives us a starting-point for our history.

"They jointly affirm that Uncas had at first but little land and very few men, inso-much he could not make a hunt, but always hunted by order from other Sachems, and in their companies; which Sachems, being five brothers, lived at a place called by the



Indians, Soudahque,\* at or near the place where Major Mason now liveth, [*i. e.*, Norwich,] who were the sons of the great Pequot Sachem's sister, and so became very great Sachems, and had their bounds very large, extending their bounds by Connecticut path,† almost to Connecticut,‡ and eastward meeting with the bounds of Pasquatuck, (who lived at Showtuckett, being a Pequot Sachem whose bounds extended eastward and took in Pachaug ;§) the which five Sachems being brothers grew so great and so proud that upon hunting they quarrelled with the Pequots, at which the great Pequot [Sachem] being angry with them, made war upon them and conquered them and their country, and they all fled into Narragansett country, (leaving their country and men unto the Pequot Sachem,) from whence they never returned, but there died. So that Indians affirm all their lands and Wocas's too, according to their customs and manners were Pequot lands, being by them conquered, and now are the true right of the English, they having conquered the Pequots."||

According to this testimony, the Nine-miles-square, at a period not long anterior to the arrival of the English, was inhabited by bands of Indians whose rulers were allied to the royal Pequot race, and probably they and their people were of Pequot origin.

Nothing more is known of these children of the soil. They were doubtless few in number, and passed away like dry leaves of the forest, swept off by winds, or beaten into the earth by wintry storms. Perhaps the report of the aged chiefs was correct, that they withdrew into Narragansett and coalesced with its tribes. The territory that had been occupied by these five brothers, however, again rises to the view in 1643. It was then claimed by Uncas, the Mohegan chief, and bore the general name of Mohegan.

Various historical notices tend to show that the Mohegans were originally a river tribe, possessing lands on the Connecticut, in what are now the towns of East Hartford and East Windsor. The father of Uncas having married into the royal Pequot family, acquired by this alliance a right to a certain tract of land on the west side of Pequot river, since known as Mohegan proper, and here fixed the principal seat of his sachemdom. The chiefs, consulted by the committee before mentioned, testified that Uncas was "akin to the Pequots," and that he received this tribal seat by inheritance from his father. Thus, when the five sachems were driven from their possessions in the neighborhood, the Mohegans stood ready to spread their hunting and fishing claims over the relinquished country and include it in their domain.

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\* *Soudahque*: the name comes to us through several copyists in this form. It may have been identical with *Souduck*, a variation of Showtuck, Showtucket. It has been suggested also that the word was originally written *Yontahque*, a name of which our modern Yantic would be the representative.

† The road to Hartford.

‡ The three towns of Hartford, Wethersfield and Windsor then constituted Connecticut.

§ Showtucket and Pachaug are now Lisbon and Griswold.

|| Conn. Col. Rec., 3 : 479.



The Yantic water-fall appears to have been a favorite resort of the Mohegans. It was their landing place and their fishing place. It is probable that they had wigwams at intervals in the neighborhood, and that it became one of their wandering homes. This supposition harmonizes with the fact that the first English settlers found here a "place of Indian Graves" which was venerated by Uncas as the spot where his parents and relatives were buried.

As a tributary chief, Uncas was exceedingly restless and ambitious. *Five times*, the Indians said, he rebelled against his superior, and each time was expelled from his possessions, and his followers subjected to the sway of the conqueror. But at this extremity, he had always managed, by submission and entreaty, to gain the pardon of his liege lord and recover his inheritance.

Still another of these rebellious outbreaks occurred about the time that the English first settled upon Connecticut river. Uncas being once more defeated by Sassacus, retired to the territory claimed by the Mohegans, near Windsor, where some of the tribe still remained. This brought him into the neighborhood and to the knowledge of the English, and particularly of Capt. Mason, whom he joined, with seventy Mohegan and river Indians, in the famous expedition against the Pequots, in May, 1637.

The success of this enterprise opened the way for his return to his seat upon Pequot river. He was henceforward protected and fostered by the English, his claims to large tracts of land allowed, and the number of his subjects greatly increased by the captives bestowed upon him, and the fugitives that sought his protection. In the words of other Indians, "the English made him high."

The Narragansetts and Mohegans were rival races; their sachems jealous of each other, and the people ever ready to break out into rancorous warfare. The early history of Connecticut is perplexed with accounts of their petty quarrels. Our present Norwich was then the Mohegan frontier, the battle-ground and lurking place of hostile tribes. Among its rocks and ravines the scouting parties of the Narragansetts often laid their snares or found shelter when pursued; and here also was the lookout post of the Mohegans, when expecting an attack from the foe.

In 1638, the hostile sachems, Miantonomoh and Uncas, through the persuasion or authority of the English, entered into an agreement at Hartford, not to make war upon each other without first appealing to the English. But mutual dislike and national jealousy were easily inflamed into open hostility, and neither party, when roused to the conflict, waited for the sanction of its neighbors. An open rupture at length took place, the immediate cause of which is thus stated by Governor Winthrop of Massachusetts, in his journal:



“Onkus, being provoked by Sequasson, a sachem of Connecticut, made war upon him, and slew divers of his men, and burnt his wigwams; whereupon Minantunnomoh being his kinsman, took offence against Onkus, and went with near one thousand men and set upon Onkus before he could be provided for defence, for he had not then with him above three or four hundred men.”

Other historians, and among them Trumbull, in his History of Connecticut, trace the dispute farther back, to an attempt which was made to assassinate Uncas by a Pequot, who was suspected to have been incited to this act by the Narragansett sachem. Of this, however, no satisfactory proof was ever adduced. Miantonomoh indignantly denied the charge, and retorted upon Uncas that he had cut his own arm with a flint, and then accused the Pequot of wounding him. But whatever might be the incident which supplied the spark of ignition, the materials had long been gathering, and the flame broke forth in the summer of 1643. The following account, more minute than is usually given of this contest, is deduced from a careful comparison of the earliest histories, with the traditions of the Mohegans.

Miantonomoh having secretly assembled a force of five or six hundred warriors,\* marched against the Mohegans. He expected to take them by surprise, the season being that in which they were usually busy in their cornfields, or engaged in fishing, and he might reasonably anticipate a brilliant victory. But Uncas was a wary chieftain; his partizans were at that very time abroad, and he soon received information of the movements of his enemies. According to tradition the Narragansetts were first discovered as they were crossing the Shetucket at a fording place, near the junction of the Quinnebaug.

From this point they came streaming onward through the woods and over the long hill that commands the valley of the Yantic. This was one of the common routes from Narragansett to Mohegan, and without doubt, Uncas in seasons of peculiar peril kept the path strictly watched.

Having received information of their approach, he assembled his men with great celerity and boldly advanced to meet the foe.

When he reached what is called the Great Plain, three or four miles from his principal settlement, and a mile and a half south-west of the Yantic, he learned that the Narragansetts had crossed the fords of the Yantic, [at Noman's acre,] and were pouring down upon him. He immediately halted, arranged his men on a rising ground, and made them

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\* Nine hundred, or one thousand, says Trumbull, and the warriors of Uncas four or five hundred. This is an over-estimate, as an inquiry into the effective force of the two tribes will show. Half the number assigned in each case, would probably come nearer to the truth. In Mohegan proper, there is no reason to suppose that even two hundred warriors could have been found at that time, and though Uncas might command the services of several small tributary bands, he could have had no opportunity to assemble them for this service.



acquainted with a stratagem, the effect of which he was about to prove. He had scarcely given his warriors instructions how to act, before the Narragansetts appeared on an opposite declivity. Uncas sent forward a messenger, desiring a parley with Miantonomoh, which was granted, and the two chiefs met on the plain, between their respective armies. Uncas then proposed that the fortune of the day should be decided by themselves in single combat, and the lives of their warriors spared. His proposition was thus expressed: "Let us two fight it out: if you kill me, my men shall be yours; but if I kill you, your men shall be mine."

Miantonomoh, who seems to have suspected some crafty manœuvre, in this unusual proposition, replied disdainfully, "My men came to fight, and they shall fight." Uncas immediately gave a pre-concerted signal to his followers, by falling flat upon his face to the ground. They, being all prepared with bent bows, instantly discharged a shower of arrows upon the enemy, and raising the battle yell, rushed forward with their tomahawks, their chieftain starting up and leading the onset. The Narragansetts, who were carelessly awaiting the result of the conference, and not expecting that the Mohegans would venture to fight at all with such inferior force, were taken by surprise; and after a short and confused attempt at resistance, were put to flight. The fugitives and their pursuers, with despairing cries and triumphant shouts, crossed the river at the shallows and swept like a whirlwind over the hills, regardless of tangled forests, rushing torrents and precipitous ledges of rock. The course of flight and pursuit led across the Yantic shoals below Noman's acre, and from thence through Norwich, over the high ridge of Ox-hill, toward the well-known fords of the Shetucket, above the mouth of the Quinnabaug.

One of the Mohegan Captains, who was very swift of foot, singled out Miantonomoh and pursued him with relentless pertinacity. The sachem had nearly reached the river, but being, it is said, encumbered and retarded by a corslet of mail,\* his pursuer overtook him, and throwing himself against him, impeded his motion. When the chief had recovered himself, he repeated the act, continuing thus to obstruct his flight, but not attempting to seize him, that Uncas might come up and have the honor of his capture. The moment that Uncas touched his shoulder, Miantonomoh stopped, and without the least resistance, remained calm and silent. Uncas, surveying him, demanded why he did not speak. "If you had taken me," he said, "I would have besought you for my life."† The captive chief made no reply, "choosing rather to die, than to make supplication for his life."‡ Uncas, giving the Indian whoop of victory, collected his

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\* Furnished by Gorton of Rhode Island. Probably it was only a padded or quilted vest to check the force of an Indian arrow.

† Winthrop 2: 158. Savage's edition, 1853.

‡ Hubbard, 451.



men around him and the strife ceased. The conflict had been short, and the pursuit rapid, occupying the shortest space of time in which we may suppose the fleet-footed Indians to have swept over a distance of five or six miles.

About thirty Narragansetts were slain and many more wounded. Among the latter were two of the sons of Canonicus and a brother of Miantonomoh.

We have said above that a Mohegan warrior overtook Miantonomoh in his flight, impeded his steps, and materially assisted Uncas in hunting him down. According to Winthrop's account, it was two of the flying sachem's own men who arrested his course and gave him up to Uncas, hoping thereby to obtain favorable terms for themselves; but the Mohegan sachem, indignant at their treachery, slew them on the spot. This account is happily at variance with other contemporary testimony, which states that the capture of the Narragansett chief was secured by a Mohegan, and not by the cowardice and treachery of his own companions. The very name of the fortunate warrior has been preserved. Mr. Thomas Peters, who was shortly afterward a visitor at the fort of Uncas, mentions *Tantaquieson* as the Mohegan captain "who first fingered Miantonomio." Hubbard also, in his History, gives the credit of the capture to the same chief.\* Moreover it was this exploit that elevated the name of Tantaquieson, (or Tantaquidgin, as it was pronounced in later days,) and made it an honorable one among the Mohegans. His descendants long afterwards, in their visits among the neighboring whites, were accustomed to boast of the capture of the *great Narragansett giant* by their ancestor.

But while it exalted the warrior in the estimation of his own people, it pointed him out as the special object of Narragansett vengeance, exposing him both to open attack and secret assassination. Various snares were laid for him, and both craft and courage employed to accomplish his destruction; but apparently he escaped all designs against his life, and died in a quiet way.†

Traditions of this remarkable contest, embellished probably with various legendary additions, have been preserved both by the whites and Indians in the neighborhood of the scene. In point of fact, it is the most conspicuous purely Indian fight recorded in the annals of New England. The English had no direct concern in the conflict. It was entirely aboriginal in its character and execution. The numbers engaged, the dignity of the sachems, the importance of its results, and the romantic incidents in its train, combine to enhance the interest of the contest, and to demand for it a special prominence in the history of Norwich. Here was the battle-

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\* App. to Savage's Winthrop, Vol. 2. Hubbard's New England, 459.

† One of his grandsons was an estimable deacon of the Mohegan church.



ground: the flight, pursuit and capture of the sachem all took place within the limits of the present town.

The sudden rout and extreme terror of the Narragansetts, which followed the first onset of the Mohegans, shows in a strong light the bewildering influence of panic. Considering the preponderance of their numbers, and the confidence with which they advanced to the attack, the precipitate, headlong retreat that followed becomes almost ludicrous. If we may credit the accounts given by the Mohegans, so great was the dismay and alarm of the fugitives, that they seemed bereft of their senses, and were driven like frightened sheep through woods and swamps, or captured without resistance. Long afterwards some old Mohegans were heard to boast of having found in the chase a poor Narragansett struggling and panting in the thicket that bordered the river, and so frantic with fear and excitement, as to suppose himself in the water, and actually attempting to *swim* among the bushes.

It is to this headlong rout that the traditionary legend connected with the Falls of the Yantic may with some degree of probability be assigned.\* One band of the fugitives being turned out of the direct line leading to the fords of the Yantic, were chased through woods, and over rocks and hills, by the relentless fury of their pursuers, and coming upon the river where the current was deep and rapid, many of them were driven into it headlong, and there slaughtered or drowned. Others, in the rapidity of their career, having suddenly reached the high precipice that overhangs the cataract, plunged, either unawares or with reckless impetuosity, into the abyss beneath, and were dashed upon the rocks, their mangled bodies floating down into the calm basin below.

After the battle, Uncas returned in triumph to his fortress, carrying his illustrious captive with him, whom he treated with generous kindness and respect. But on the requisition of the English, he conducted him to Hartford and surrendered him to the custody of the government, consenting to be guided in the future disposal of the sachem entirely by their advice.

The whole affair was laid before the Commissioners of the United Colonies, at their meeting at Boston in September, and the question was there debated whether it was just and lawful to put Miantonomoh to death. His execution of a Pequot who had testified against him; his repeated attempts upon the life of Uncas by assassination, poison and sorcery; his turbulence in making war against the Mohegans without a previous appeal to the English; and his inveterate hostility to the whites, to exterminate whom

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\* It is difficult to give these old unwritten tales their proper place in history. The author formerly assigned a later date to the frightful plunge of the fugitives at the Falls, but when all the accompanying circumstances are considered, the legend is found to coincide best with the strange panic that prevailed among the Narragansetts at this time.



he was accused of endeavoring to bring about a confederacy of several tribes, and of hiring the Mohawks to assist in the deadly work, were the arguments urged against him. Nevertheless, the court still hesitated whether it would be just to put him to death, and in this dilemma referred the matter to ecclesiastical counselors. Five of the principal ministers in the colonies were consulted, and these, considering it hazardous to the peace of the country that the sachem should be released, gave their voice in favor of his execution. This decided the question in the affirmative, and the Commissioners directed that Uncas should conduct his captive

“Into the next part of his own government, and there put him to death : provided that some discreet and faithful persons of the English accompany them and see the execution, for our more full satisfaction.”

Such was the death-warrant of the Narragansett sachem. The result is recorded by Governor Winthrop of Massachusetts, in his Journal. He states that the Commissioners from Connecticut, on their return to Hartford, sent for Uncas and acquainted him with the decision in regard to his captive. He readily undertook the execution of the sentence, and Miantonomoh was accordingly delivered into his hands. Two Englishmen from Hartford were directed to remain with the prisoner as witnesses of the deed. Uncas promptly obeyed the directions given. Winthrop says :

“Taking Miantonomoh along with him, in the way between Hartford and Windsor, (where Onkus hath some men dwell,) Onkus’ brother, following after Miantunnomoh, clave his head with an hatchet.”

This slaughter of the Narragansett chief undoubtedly took place on that tract of land south of the Podunk which was claimed by Uncas and inhabited by scattered families under his jurisdiction. The narrative of Winthrop is explicit in stating that Uncas led his captive to this district, and that he was executed suddenly on the way, probably as soon as they had passed the English boundary and entered upon Indian territory. We can not doubt that the Commissioners had this special tract in view when they directed Uncas to carry his captive *into the next part of his own government, and there put him to death*. Winthrop, who records the event, understood, evidently, that the execution took place in this Mohegan claim between Hartford and Windsor, that is, the present East Hartford and East Windsor, and he probably derived his information from the Englishmen that were designated to witness the act and see that it was done without torture. We are thus, in a manner, compelled to admit that Miantonomoh was executed in some unknown spot, near the old boundary line of Hartford and Windsor.

But Trumbull, the worthy historian of Connecticut, yielding to the strong current of local tradition, in and around Norwich, assigns a very different place for the scene of this tragedy.



According to this authority, Uncas conducted his captive to the very spot where he had taken him prisoner: that is, to the border of the Shetucket river, about forty miles in a southeasterly direction from Hartford, and there executed the awful sentence; a blow upon the head with a hatchet by one of the attendants of Uncas dispatching him at a single stroke. The historian adds:

“Uncas cut out a large piece of his shoulder, and ate it in savage triumph. He said, It was the sweetest meat he ever ate: it made his heart strong.”

We know that many of the Indian tribes, even those not accounted cannibals, had the custom of tasting the flesh or blood of a slaughtered foe, believing that thereby the strength and valor of the deceased was infused into their own souls. This part of the tradition is not wholly improbable. Whether the chief was slaughtered in the nameless wilds above Hartford, or on the banks of the Shetucket, Uncas may have gratified his revenge and honored a savage practice by tasting the flesh of his fallen enemy. The incident, however, rests wholly on tradition, and is not countenanced by any thing that we know of the customs and character of the Mohegans. On the contrary, it has the vague and exaggerative features of fiction.

The historian further relates that the Mohegans, by order of Uncas, buried the victim at the place of his execution, and erected a great heap or pillar upon his grave; adding that this memorable event gave to the place the name of Sachem's Plain.

This narrative coincides with current tradition. Sachem's Plain is on the western bank of the Shetucket, north of the present village of Greenville, and here for a long course of years the monumental heap was to be seen, apparently giving solemn evidence of the verity of the statement. Nevertheless the Records of the Commissioners, and the Journal of Winthrop, being written at the time, and with such manifest attention to minute accuracy, must be accepted as more reliable than tradition.\*

And indeed, considering the nature of the route, without reference either to history or tradition, it is scarcely credible that Uncas would have taken that long journey with his manacled captive, through the wilderness, where the chances of escape or recapture were so imminent, and he might reasonably expect his course to be watched and his path ambushed by the enemy, when the terms of his engagement could be fulfilled and his embarrassments ended at a much nearer point. For it is evident that the

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\* The authority quoted by Trumbull is a manuscript of Richard Hyde, Esq., (now in the Library of Yale College,) which is dated Oct. 9, 1769. It is undoubtedly what it claims to be, a faithful narrative of the traditions of ancient men in the vicinity; but in the course of 126 years it would be very easy for an error to slide into tradition, which should blend the place of the sachem's execution with that of his capture.



Commissioners designed that Miantonomoh should be removed from life with expedition, and the phrase, *next part of his own government*, used in reference to the jurisdiction of Uncas, points to the Mohegan territory on the Podunk, and not to the Mohegan territory on the Shetucket.\*

This view of the subject by no means destroys the interest attached to the monumental heap, and the commemorative name, Sachem's Plain. They were memorials of the capture, if not of the slaughter, of the chieftain. Here the first blow was given, that ended in the bloody execution. Here the great Narragansett was arrested in his flight. Here he sate upon the stone, and his captors came around with taunts and mockery, and shouts of joy and triumph. Here they bound his arms with withs, and led him away like a captured lion to Mohegan.

The heap of stones was doubtless in its origin a Mohegan pile,—a martial trophy erected upon the spot where the tribe had been victorious. But the place of sacrifice in the woods of Windsor,—the spot where the helpless chief received the fatal blow,—was left unmarked and unvisited. There, perchance, the carrion fowls fed upon his flesh, and his bones were left to bleach and decay. No tradition designates the spot, and it must forever remain unknown.

The rude tumulus on Sachem's Plain, which was at first, perhaps, but three or four stones rolled together, grew at last to a memorable heap. Being near an Indian route often traveled, it was visited by scouting parties of different tribes, and additions made to it alike by exultant foes and bewailing friends. All true-hearted Narragansetts who passed that way, renewed their lamentations at the heap, and cast a few more stones upon it, consecrating them with doleful cries and frantic gestures. Tradition, therefore, might naturally be drawn into the mistake of supposing this the tomb of the chieftain. The English who settled on the tract, seeing this artificial mound, this Gilgal or heap of memorial stones reared in the wilderness, and observing that every Mohegan, when he came within sight of it, broke into loud exultation and bravado, and every Narragansett uttered his dismal howl of lamentation, while each paused to cast upon it another stone of defiance or of honor, would easily credit the report, however vague its authority, that here lay the remains of the great Miantonomoh.

A late citizen of Norwich, N. L. Shipman, Esq., who deceased in 1853, at the age of eighty, remembered this tumulus in his youth,—a rude stone heap, between two solitary oak trees, about sixteen rods east of the old Providence road, and nearly in a line with that part of the river where the great dam has been built.

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\* In the former edition of this work, the author, swayed by a belief entertained from childhood,—a belief current and unquestioned in the neighborhood of Norwich, and sanctioned by Trumbull and other historians,—expressed a different opinion. It was an opinion, however, based upon tradition rather than coeval testimony. Subsequent inquiries have led to a different conclusion.



At length the owner of the land, who was perhaps ignorant of the design of the stones, removed the greater part of them to use in the undersetting of a barn he was erecting in the neighborhood. The remainder, in the clearing up of the ground, gradually disappeared. In the process of time the old oak trees also vanished, and nothing was left to designate the spot where the flying chieftain yielded to his foe, until the 4th of July, 1841. At that time a monument was erected, by a few citizens of Norwich, as nearly upon the site of the old tumulus as could be ascertained.\* It consists of a block or cube of granite, five feet square at the base, placed on a pedestal that raises the whole eight feet above the surface, and bearing the simple inscription—

### MIANTONOMO.

1643.

This is the Sachem's monument. The place where it stands has long been known as Sachem's Plain, or Sachem's Point: a small stream which here flows into the Shetucket, is Sachem's Brook; and a living spring near by, is Sachem's Spring. In fact, the whole neighborhood is overshadowed and engraven with the name and fame of the great Narragansett chief.

This granite block was dedicated in the presence of a concourse of people, young and old, from the neighborhood, the ceremony being connected with a festival of children from the village of Greeneville. It was consecrated by prayer, and libations of pure water from the Sachem's spring, where doubtless he had slaked his thirst and cooled his heated brow in his marches through the wilderness.

Another question may be worthy of some consideration. What was the precise date of the execution of Miantonomoh?

A note in the Massachusetts Historical Collection says:

"The Indian Prince was murdered, as appears from Governor Winthrop's MS. History, the 28th of September, 1643."†

Winthrop's History, since published, fails to verify this statement, the date of the tragedy not being there given. Nevertheless, the time designated may be correct.

The Commissioners met at Boston on the 17th of September. It was agreed that the proceedings should be kept secret until after the members from Hartford and New Haven should return home. Uncas was then to be sent for, and the execution committed to his hands.

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\* Erected principally through the influence and exertions of Wm. C. Gilman, Esq. To identify the spot, the party relied upon the accuracy of Judge Shipman, who was present at the dedication, and rehearsed the traditions connected with the place.

† Vol. 7 of Series 2, p. 47.



The Commissioners probably reached Hartford by the 22d. Uncas might have been summoned so as to arrive on the 26th or 27th, and the execution would naturally follow without unavoidable delay.

The General Court met at Hartford on the 12th of October, and passed a resolve to send eight soldiers to remain a while with Uncas to protect him from the anticipated vengeance of the Narragansetts.\* The same day the message of Pessacus, the brother of Miantonomoh, arrived in Boston, avowing his intention to avenge the death of the chief. All these dates and attendant circumstances concur in assigning the sachem's death to one of the last days of September; and probably it occurred on the 28th.

The sentence of Miantonomoh is one of the most flagrant acts of injustice and ingratitude that stands recorded against the English settlers. He had shown many acts of kindness towards the whites; in all his intercourse with them had evinced a noble and magnanimous spirit; had been the uniform friend and assistant of the first settlers of Rhode Island; and only seven years before his death, had received into the bosom of his country, Mason and his little band of soldiers from Hartford, and greatly assisted them in their conquest of the Pequots.

The Narragansetts were determined to avenge the death of their chief. They were particularly exasperated with Uncas, as he had entered into treaty with them for the release of the sachem, and had already received, as they averred, a large quantity of wampum in part payment of his ransom. The Mohegans, on their part, denied that any wampum or other goods had been received by them, except small parcels which Miantonomoh himself had bestowed, as gratuities, upon their captains and counselors, or given to "Uncas and his squaw, for preserving his life so long and using him courteously during his imprisonment."

A harrassing and inveterate system of hostility between the two tribes ensued. The Narragansetts were double in number to the Mohegans, but the latter were shielded by the protecting care of the English, so that a balance was preserved between the two nations, otherwise unequal. The war was carried on by sudden skirmishes, and a system of scouting and ambushment, creating constant alarm and irritation, but yielding small results.

During the spring of 1645, the Narragansetts invaded the Mohegan country with a large force, committed great devastation, and finally drove Uncas to his strongest fort and besieged him there. According to tradition this fort was on Shantok Point, a rough projection by the side of the Thames, nearly opposite Pocquetannok. The English had assisted Uncas in fortifying this spot. There is still a fine spring of water by the bank.

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\* Col. Rec. Conn., 1, 96. New Haven also sent six by a resolve of Oct. 14. Col. Rec. N. H., p. 110.



The position was easily defended, and the Narragansetts had no hope of taking it by assault. Many of the women and children had fled to the other side of the river, with a part of the canoes, but of the remainder the Narragansetts had taken possession, so as to cut off retreat on the water side, and thus enclosing them on this point of land, they hoped to subdue them by famine. How long the siege continued is not known; but one night a messenger dispatched by Uncas left the fort without being discovered by the besiegers, and creeping along the margin of the river very cautiously till without the range of the enemy's scouts, he crossed the country with Indian speed, and arrived the next day at Saybrook, the nearest English settlement, where he made known the desperate situation of the Mohegans. Or perhaps Trumbull's account may be more correct: that he fell in with a scouting party from the fort, and communicated to them the message with which he was charged by Uncas.

Measures were immediately taken at Saybrook for the relief of the beleaguered sachem. This was before the appointment of Mason to the command of the fort, and the supplies sent are supposed to have been forwarded by private enterprise. No later investigations either enlarge or vary the account given by the venerable historian of Connecticut.

"Upon this intelligence, one Thomas Leffingwell, an ensign at Saybrook, an enterprising, bold man, loaded a canoe with beef, corn and pease, and under cover of the night paddled from Saybrook into the Thames; and had the address to get the whole into the fort." \*

It is probable that Leffingwell had often been on trading excursions to Mohegan, and was well acquainted with Pequot river, and the position of Shantok fort. We know in general that the people of Saybrook were in the habit of coming into the river to trade with the Indians, and that *Trading Cove*, which afterwards became the southern boundary of Norwich, was a name bestowed by them long anterior to the settlement.

A fanciful legend has in later times been connected with this adventure. It would be difficult now to ascertain what degree of truth belongs to it. It is said that the expected relief from Saybrook was delayed much longer than the hungry and impatient Mohegans had anticipated; and that each night Uncas left the fort and crept along the bank of the river, skulking by the water's edge, till he came to a rocky and precipitous point, which juts into the stream, a little above Massapeag Cove. Here, under shelter of the rock, the sachem remained till nearly day-light, with his sleepless eyes upon the river, and his ear intent to catch the lightest sound of a falling oar, and it was not till the second or third night of his watch that

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\* Trumbull's Conn.: Ch. xi. Leffingwell was not an ensign at that period. He was chosen ensign of the train band in Norwich, long afterward.



Leffingwell arrived. The ledge of rock on which the sachem sat in his midnight watch has since obtained the name of *Uncas' Chair*.

No sooner was this timely supply of provisions safely lodged in the fortress, than loud shouts of exultation were uttered by the besieged, to the astonishment of the Narragansetts, who were unable to divine the cause of this midnight triumph. At the dawn of day, however, the secret was disclosed; the Mohegans elevated a large piece of beef on a pole, and thus gave notice of the relief they had obtained. The Narragansetts dared not assail either the persons or property of the English, but we can readily believe that they beheld the boat lying by the shore with bitter feelings of exasperation, and poured out a torrent of threats and invectives against its officious owners. That they saw Leffingwell, and knew it was he that brought the supplies, is evident from Leffingwell's own testimony, as will soon appear. Finding that there was no chance of reducing the Mohegans while they were thus supported, the Narragansetts abandoned the siege and returned home.

It may be thought that the year 1645 is too early for the date of that particular irruption of the Narragansetts from which Uncas was relieved by Leffingwell. The sachem was so often, after the death of Miantonomoh, assailed by his enemies, that it is not easy to determine where this incident belongs. Trumbull uses the vague phraseology, "*during the wars between Uncas and the Narragansetts,*" which would apply to any year between 1642 and 1660. A later historian of the State places it without question in 1657,\* but this date can not be sustained. Uncas was indeed closely besieged in 1657, but in a fortress that stood near the head of Niantick river, west of New London, and the siege was raised not by virtue of beef and corn from Saybrook, but by the presence of Lieut. Avery, Jonathan Brewster, and other inhabitants of New London, who hastened to the fort and spread their protecting Ægis over the sachem.

It might be the safest course to leave the period of this incident indefinite; yet there appears to be sufficient historic evidence to justify us in assigning it definitely to May or June, 1645, that being the period when the Mohegans were reduced to the greatest extremity.

It was in the year 1645 that the younger Winthrop and his party commenced that settlement in the conquered Pequot territory, which soon grew into the town of New London. This was but seven or eight miles below the principal fort of Uncas, and it may be fairly inferred that the siege, in which the sachem was brought to the verge of destruction by his enemies, was before this English settlement had taken the form of a regular plantation. Otherwise, Uncas would have been likely to apply for aid to his nearer neighbor, Winthrop, instead of sending his scouts to Say-

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\* Hollister's Hist. Conn., 1: 199.



brook for assistance. He would, at least, have informed Mr. Winthrop of his situation, and implored the interference of the English. Moreover, the summer of 1645 was a critical period in the history of Uncas. The regular meeting of the Commissioners of the United Colonies was to take place in September, but on account of the hostile bearing of the Narragansetts, and the consequent danger of Uncas, they assembled in an extra session at Boston, on the 28th of July. From their proceedings at this time, we learn that the Mohegan sachem had already been "divers times assaulted in his fort by a great army of the Narrohigansetts."

In the regular sequence of events, "about or before planting time," Tantaqueison, the Mohegan warrior that captured Miantonomoh, was assaulted and dangerously wounded by a lurking foe, that crept stealthily into his wigwam, as he lay asleep.

After this, and before the meeting of the Commissioners, in July, the Narragansetts "at several times openly invaded Uncas," and the colonies of New Haven and Connecticut sent a few soldiers to Mohegan for his defence. Again, before the 11th of August, the Commissioners say that the enemy have made "a new assault upon Uncas, and have done him much hurt."

In another irruption made by Pessacus, the same year, the force of the Narragansetts, when compared with that of Uncas, was so overwhelming in point of numbers, that it is difficult to understand why the Mohegans were not entirely annihilated. Making a show of only forty men at a time, they drew the warriors of Uncas into an ambush, then suddenly rising, pursued them with arrows and bullets to the cover of their forts. But here the latter rallied, repulsed their assailants, and in the end drove them from their territory.

It was during this season, and while these sanguinary conflicts were raging at Mohegan, that Winthrop, with his associate, Mr. Thomas Peters, arrived at Pequot harbor with a pioneer band, to lay out a plantation and make preparations for an immediate settlement. In the midst of their work, learning, probably from the fear-stricken fugitives that came down through the forests from Mohegan, that the Narragansetts were devastating the fair fields of Uncas, they cast aside the woodman's axe and the surveyor's chain, and hastened to the assistance of the sachem.

A letter from Mr. Peters to the elder Winthrop, at Boston, giving a brief but spirited description of the condition in which they found the Mohegans, has been preserved.

"I with your son were at Uncus fort where I dressed seventeen men and left plasters to dresse seventeen more who were wounded in Uncus brother's wigwam before we came. Two captains and one common soldier were buried, and since we came thence two captains and one common man more are dead also, most of which were wounded with bullets. Uncas and his brother told me, the Narragansetts had thirty guns which won them the day else they would not care a rush for them.



They drew Uncas forces out by a wile, of forty appearing only, but one thousand in ambush, who pursued Uncas men into their own land where the battle was fought *vario marte*, till God put fresh spirit into the Moheagues, and so drave the Narragansetts back again.”\*

It is evident that amid the multiplicity of attacks and sieges, and the numerous invasions of Mohegan during the long wars of Uncas and the Narragansetts, it would be a vain attempt to determine with nice precision the time when the adventurous Leffingwell appeared with his boat load of nutriment. It tallies best, however, as we have seen, with other historical facts to give it a place in this eventful year, and at an early period of the campaign, before Winthrop and Peters were well established at New London.

It is probable that Leffingwell was paid for his exploit, as far as expense was incurred, in the usual way of Indian traffic, with skins and wampum. Trumbull says, “For this service Uncas gave said Leffingwell a deed of great part if not the whole town of Norwich.” There is, however, no such deed on record, and no allusion to any such deed in subsequent transactions; nor does it appear afterwards, upon the settlement of the town, that Leffingwell received or claimed any larger share than the other proprietors.

In 1667 he petitioned the General Court to confirm to him a grant of land which Uncas had proffered him in recompense for services that he had rendered. His petition implies that he had heretofore received no special gratuity from the sachem. He says:

“Its not unknown to him and others what damage in my outward estate I have suffered by his men, and yet notwithstanding, when he and his people were famishing, being besieged by many enemies, I did afford him provition for their relief, although it was to the hazard of all my outward comforts, the enemy knowing what supply I had and did afford him; upon these and such like reasons, Uncas hath several times offered me some land for my recompense and just satisfaction, and hath expressed the same to the Major, who is acquainted with the truth of these things, but order requireth me to propound the matter to your worshipful consideration, desiring your approbation of the way Uncas hath propounded for my satisfaction.”†

The petition of Leffingwell was considered by the General Court, jointly with an application for land by Thomas Tracy, and a grant was made to the two of 400 acres, to be laid out on the “east side of Showtuckett river,” and equally divided between them. The land taken up by them in virtue of this grant lay beyond the bounds of Norwich.‡

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\* Appendix to Savage's Winthrop, Vol. 2.

† Col. Rec. Conn., 2, 74.

‡ From the fact that Tracy shared with Leffingwell in this grant, the idea originated that he had been a partner with him in the relief of Uncas. But the inference is not necessary. Tracy was much employed in public affairs, and might obtain the grant in recompense for other services.



This is all that has been found on record concerning the claim and compensation of Leffingwell. There is no evidence that he ever obtained from Uncas a deed of the town of Norwich, or a promise of it. What he did obtain in remuneration for certain services, was granted more than twenty years afterwards, and instead of being a sufficiency for a town, it was only 200 acres, and not even within the bounds of the Nine-miles-square. It was through the influence and agency of Mason, and not of Leffingwell, that the cession of Norwich was obtained of the Indian sachems.

For a period of fourteen years after these desperate fights at Mohegan, the mutual enmity of the Narragansetts and Mohegans continued without abatement, and other Indian tribes of less note, Podunks, Pecomticks, Nehanticks, were drawn into the quarrel. The results indeed were trifling. It was a system of marauding, skulking and assassination, rather than of legitimate warfare, but such a state of things rendered it hazardous for the English to advance the frontier and attempt new settlements in the Indian country. The utmost vigilance, prudence and bravery were for several years necessary to defend the points they had already assumed.

Through all this long succession of disputes and contests, the English of Connecticut, though ostensibly neutral, were the favorers and protectors of Uncas. Their timely assistance and the dread of their power alone prevented him and his tribe from falling a prey to the exasperation of their enemies. The plans of the Narragansetts were repeatedly discovered and their designs defeated by the planters in the neighborhood of the Mohegan villages. Mr. Jonathan Brewster had erected a trading-house in 1650, at Poquetannock on the east side of the river, opposite the principal settlement of the Mohegans, and in all the subsequent inroads of the Narragansetts, and of their allies, the Podunks and other Indians of Connecticut river, he was the constant friend and adviser, though not the openly and defender, of Uncas, the English neutrality forbidding any overt act of championship.

Uncas was on several occasions warned of the approach of his enemies by these friendly neighbors. By a concerted signal from the summit of a hill, by the firing of a gun, or by shouting across the river, they contrived to give him timely notice of impending danger, and prevent him from being taken by surprise.\*

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\* Roger Williams and other planters, east of Pawcatuck river, favored the Narragansetts. A letter from Rhode Island, dated July 4, 1657, observes: "We have at this instant a very solemn and serious information from the Narragansett sachems, by a chief counsellor of theirs, that they take it ill of some English who live near Uncas his fort, for that (as they say) the English by their scouts discover to the Mohegans the approach of the Narragansetts, and thereby do defeat their designs in war against Uncas."

Mass. Hist. Coll., 2d Series, 7, 81. Potter's Narragansett, p. 54.



But on the north and west of the Mohegans there were no friendly settlements, and the Narragansett war parties often came from that quarter, skulking through the woods and breaking in upon them with a sudden howl. The customary haunts of the Mohegans at Trading Cove, and along the river, were rendered so hazardous by exposure to these furious irruptions, that at length the wigwams were deserted and the tribe scattered abroad. Some of them, in groups or families, found temporary shelter and concealment in distant woods, but Uncas and the greater part of his people retired to Nayantick, (or Niantic,) on the western border of New London. This was a fishing station of the tribe, where they often encamped during the summer. Here they entrenched themselves in a fort, built after their usual mode with logs, stakes and stones, erected a few wigwams, and feasted on fish and clams. But the repose was of short duration.

Pessacus of Narragansett could not forget the murder of his brother, and was resolute not to bury the hatchet while his great enemy breathed the air of heaven. In August, 1657, he collected his forces for a fresh onslaught, and sweeping through Mohegan, came upon Uncas in his new entrenchments at Nayantick, and pressed him with a close siege. The sachem would probably have been compelled to surrender, had not a body of armed men from the neighborhood, headed by Mr. Brewster and Lieut. Avery, hastened to his assistance.\* They threw themselves into the fort, and the besiegers, unwilling to engage in a contest with the English, retreated.

At the next session of the General Court of Connecticut, Major Mason presented a narrative of the beleaguering of Uncas by the Narragansetts at Nayantick, and Mr. Brewster was regularly authorized to assist and protect the sachem, should he be again molested by his enemies. The Commissioners of the United Colonies, however, at their meeting disapproved of this measure, and ordered that henceforth no colony nor individual within their jurisdiction should interfere in any Indian quarrel, unless in their own just and necessary defense.

It is exciting to the imagination to consider how many times in the course of these barbarous incursions, the peaceful hills and vales of our now populous and hospitable Norwich, which lay directly in the path of the invaders, were swept over by rushing bands of grim and stalwart warriors, horribly painted for war, brandishing their hatchets and war-clubs; now creeping stealthily as a beast after his prey, and anon rushing down to the attack, or fleeing in disordered rout before the pursuer.

In the year 1659, Uucas was invaded by a combined force of Pecomticks and Narragansetts. They found him strongly intrenched in his fort

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\* Col. Rec. Conn., 1, 301. Hist. New London, p. 127.



at Shantok, opposite Mr. Brewster's trading-house, and having laid waste his fields and plundered his wigwams, they departed.

An incident that occurred at the time of this inroad, was made the subject of complaint before the Commissioners. Some of the young warriors, having been fired at by an Indian near Mr. Brewster's, crossed the river in pursuit of the offender, and chased him into the house and to the very feet of "Mistress Brewster," to whom he fled for succor, and slew him there, "to her great affrightment."

For this offence the Narragansetts were amerced by the Commissioners in eighty fathoms of wampum.

In a second irruption of the enemy at a later period of the same year, Mr. Brewster was plundered of both corn and goods. The Mohegans fled at first, but rallied, and gaining some advantage, obliged their enemies to retreat, pursuing them triumphantly into the wilderness. This was probably the last battle fought at Mohegan. The long contest was drawing to a close.

The course of our narrative has now brought us to the verge of the settlement of Norwich. The soil had been purchased, the deed signed, and certain advance parties from Saybrook were exploring the banks of the Yantic, making surveys and measurements, and laying out lots for a future township at this very period, near the track of this last expedition. According to tradition, two of these English surveyors were upon the side hill, near the present residence of Daniel W. Coit, Esq., engaged in digging ground-nuts to satisfy their hunger, when they heard the noise of a tumultuous throng pressing furiously through the fords and wood-paths, and the distant shouts of pursuers driving them over the Yantic.

From this period the alarms of Uucas were at an end; the English, advancing beyond him, manned his frontier and became his bulwark. Capt. Mason, his patron and friend, stood ready with arms and influence to intercept the blows of his enemies. Stonington also on the eastern frontier had become a settled township, and a barrier against the Narragansetts in that quarter. The providence of God had prepared the way for the peaceable settlement of the Saxon race, by permitting for a while the deadly passions of the Indians to take their full scope, and make them instruments of each other's destruction. The wilderness was thus thinned of its obstructions, and prepared to receive the new race of inhabitants.

Although there does not appear to have been any destructive attack upon the Mohegans after 1659, incidental circumstances show that small scouting parties occasionally came into the neighborhood, sometimes plundering and alarming the white settlers as well as the Indians. One such hostile skulking party passed through Norwich early in the year 1660,\*

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\* It was probably before the 25th of March, at which time the double dating of the year ceased, as the occurrence is by one authority assigned to 1659, and by others to 1660.



and lingering in the way, made an attempt upon the life of Mason. The incident is thus reported in a document emanating from the General Court of Connecticut, dated June 9th, 1660:

“Not many weeks now past, wee are by sufficient information certified, that one night at y<sup>e</sup> New Plantation at Monheage [Norwich,] some Indians, as will appeare, of the Narragansetts, shot 11 bullets into a house of our English there, in hopes, as they boasted, to have slaine him whome we have cause to honor, whose safety we cannot but take ourselves bound to promote, our Deputy Gov<sup>r</sup> Major Mason.”\*

The same fact is mentioned in the Records of the Commissioners, (with some variation in the number of bullets,) as a complaint presented by the English, living at a new plantation at Mohegan, viz.:

“That some Indians did in the dead time of night, shoot eight bullets into an English house, & fired the same, wherein five Englishmen were asleep.”†

This was a rough salute for the new settlers, and an appalling specimen of the hazards attending their enterprise. The house thus attacked must have been that of Major Mason, supposed to have been the first built in Norwich. It stood upon a knoll above the river, at the southwest corner of the Green, where is now the old Court-House.

The Narragansetts were summoned by the Court of Commissioners to answer for this outrage. The chiefs apologized, saying that the offence was committed without their consent or knowledge, and that they countenanced no such practices. It was decreed, however, that in expiation of the insult they should either deliver up the four principal offenders, or pay 500 fathoms of wampum.

Of one more, and perhaps the last irruption of Narragansett upon Mohegan, a glimpse is obtained from a passage in a letter of Roger Williams to the younger Winthrop. Writing from Providence, Sept. 8, 1660, he intimates that a party of his barbarous neighbors had just returned from an expedition in which nothing had been effected:

“The Monhiggins would not sallie, and the Nanhiggs would not spoile the corne for feare of offending the English.”‡

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\* Col. Rec. Conn., Vol. 1, App., 577.

† Hazard's Records of United Colonies.

‡ Winthrop Papers in Mass. Hist. Coll., 3, 10, 41.



## INDIAN NAMES.

*Miantonomoh.* A standard of authority for the spelling and accentuation of Indian names would be a great relief to writers, and an acceptable contribution to the history and topography of the country. But it is a desideratum to which we seem as yet scarcely to have made an approximation. Hesitation and uncertainty hover over the pen whenever an Indian word is to be written or pronounced. And amid the throng of doubtful terms, there is no one more variable, and therefore more perplexing, than the name of Narragansett's greatest sachem.

The variations of the name are too numerous to quote at large. The old authors disagree with one another, and are not consistent in their own practice. But the difference of orthography might perhaps be accommodated to a common standard of sound, if they had given the name its proper accent. One of the forms used by Roger Williams, viz., Miantonomi, may be pronounced in three ways, viz.:

Mi-anto-nō-mi.

Mi-anto-nōm-i.

Mian-ton'-o-mi.

The first of these forms, with the long *ō* accented, is both sonorous and majestic, and if the termination *o* or *oh* be adopted, as used by the elder Winthrop, who usually wrote the name Miantunnomoh, the result is agreeable both to the eye and ear.

The second pronunciation coincides with that considered most authentic by J. H. Trumbull, Esq., who, after collating the various authorities, decides in favor of Me-ántonōm'-y.

The third mode, with the accent on the antepenultimate, has been much in vogue of late years, and seems to be required by the orthography used by Hubbard in his Indian Wars and New England History, and by Dr. Trumbull,—Mian-ton'-imo, with or without a final *h*.

But this pronunciation is probably Anglican, and not aboriginal. It is entirely irreconcilable with some of the most ancient modes of spelling the name; for instance, that employed by Mr. Thomas Peters in 1645:

Miantinomio.

On the Sachem's monument in Greeneville, the inscription is

MIANTONOMO.

This mode of spelling the name, with the three O's, and the finishing letter *h*, is adopted in this work. It affords scope for the accent to be placed either on the third or fourth syllable.



*Uncas, Occom, Pequot, Niantic.*

Roger Williams for Uncas wrote Okace. Other cotemporary writers supply the variations Onkos, Wonkus, Unkus, Uncas. The last form has prevailed and driven its rivals from the field.

When a mode of spelling has become current, it is undoubtedly wise to let it pass on to perpetuity, whether, abstractly considered, it is the best form or not. We should perhaps write Unkus, or Onkos, if the name was now for the first time to be embodied in letters; and likewise Aukum, for the name of the Mohegan preacher; but Uncas and Occom are time-sanctioned, and we would therefore leave them as they are. For the same reason we use Pequot instead of Pequoadt, and Niantic instead of Nahantick or Nahanticut.

*Owaneco*, son of Uncas.

This name, as uttered by the Indians, commenced with the whistled W, 'Wuneco. There is a doubt where the accent should be placed. Oneco is a familiar abridgement of the name, and this seems to indicate the penultimate accent, Owane'co. But the modern Mohegans pronounce it Owan'eco, which harmonizes with the orthography sometimes found in old records, as *Awaneca*, *Oaneca*, &c.

*Mohegan.*

There are many forms of this name. Mohiccan is one of the best. The tribe is supposed to have been a branch of the Mohicanni, or Mohickanders of Hudson river, that had migrated to the banks of the Connecticut long before the English settled at Hartford.

The Indian names were all descriptive and significant. This portion of the country having been so recently in their occupation, every distinctive object, hill, stream, plain, forest, ledge of rocks, or sweep of river, seems to have had an Indian descriptive name. The early settlers being on friendly terms with their aboriginal neighbors, caught up and perpetuated many of these terms. This accounts for the number of Indian names that appear in old deeds and grants, some of which can not now be located.

The aboriginal name of the Thames has not been recovered. In the early records it is simply styled the Great River, in distinction from the Yantick, or Little River. This being used also in Indian conveyances, it may be inferred that the original name was an Indian term signifying *great* or *large*.

Quinebaug is literally *Long Pond*. In a deed of 1653 it is called "the river that comes from Quinabaug," and runs down toward Mohegan. In a deed of 1699 this phraseology occurs, "Quinabaug river, alias Aspinook river, according to the Indian name."



Showtuck, (passing through many variations to Shetucket,) is supposed to mean *middle river*. The determining part of the word, *show* or *shaw*, is a contraction of *nashaw*, *between*, or *in the middle*. The termination *et*, makes it applicable to the land between the rivers. Perhaps this was the original name of Norwich city. The situation is such as the Indians would describe by that word. The Indian settlement in the southern part of Lisbon was called Showtucket.

Yantick may have had its origin in Mishontuck, which means a roaring or noisy stream. Mishi-yon-tuck, *great-noise-river*, or *loud-voiced-stream*.

*Mashipaug*. This is the Indian name of a lake or pond, which was the south-western corner boundary of the nine-miles-square. Several other sheets of water in New England had the same name. It signifies Great Pond.

Massapeag—the same word in a different dialect—denotes a large cove at Mohegan, nearly surrounded by high land. Mr. Brewster in 1657 wrote the name Massapeack.

*Waweekus*. Two hills in Norwich bore this name: one, a range lying west of the town-plot, sometimes called Westward hill, and the other at the point where the rivers meet, now covered by the City. The latter was often written Weequaw's hill, and the name of both is supposed to be derived from Waweequaw, or Waweekus, the brother of Uncas.

*Wequonuk*. This name was given to a tract of land north of the town-plot, on the Shetucket. The brook which flowed through it bore the same name, which was familiarly abbreviated to Quonuk. The word is supposed to have some relation to wet or marshy land.

*Pautipaug*. This is the aboriginal name of a portion of the nine-miles-square, now included in the town of Franklin. The word is supposed to signify a bay, or cove, setting into the land, or at least to relate in some way to water. It is not easy therefore to determine why it should have been given to this inland district.



### CHAPTER III.

#### EARLY HISTORY OF SAYBROOK; PURCHASE AND DEED OF NORWICH.

SAYBROOK is an old, substantial, euphonious name, interesting from its historical associations, and honorable in its derivation. It perpetuates the unity of sentiment and partnership in enterprise of two enlightened noblemen, Lord Say and Seal and Lord Brook, and the grateful regard of the first settlers of the place for these their benefactors. These noblemen, with their associates, were the patentees of Connecticut. Their right or privilege, technically called a *Patent*, was purchased of Robert, Earl of Warwick, in 1632, and extended along the New England coast, westward of Narragansett river, 120 miles, and "in latitude and breadth to the South Sea." The Earl of Warwick was President of the Council of Plymouth, incorporated by King James the First for the settlement of New England, and authorized to dispense grants and patents to others. The right of the patentees was therefore valid and clear.

The place of immediate importance in this patent was the Point at the mouth of Connecticut river; and here John Winthrop the younger, acting under commission from the patentees, built a fort and commenced a plantation in 1635 and 1636. The Pequot war followed close upon this establishment, and threatened the annihilation of the infant settlement. The fort was frequently surrounded by the savages. During one whole winter, that of 1636-7, it was kept in constant jeopardy like a besieged place. Several of the men were slain; others taken prisoners; and one, by the name of Butterfield, tormented to death. The place was however sustained by the prudence and bravery of Lieut. Lion Gardiner, the active and efficient agent of Winthrop in building the fort and beginning to cultivate the ground.

At the close of the Indian troubles, Col. George Fenwick, one of the patentees, clothed with the authority of the Company, came over to take the direction of affairs, hoping to revive the drooping spirits of the planters, and give a fresh impetus to the undertaking. This gentleman arrived at New Haven in September, 1639, in the first European vessel that ever



anchored in New Haven harbor.\* He was accompanied by his wife, Lady Alice Botler, the daughter of an English knight.†

The settlement now began to be known by the genial and enduring name of Saybrook. Previously it had been distinguished only as the fort or settlement at the river's mouth. New houses were now built, and the land more extensively cultivated. The Point was laid out into streets and blocks for a city. West of the fort a square was reserved for the dwellings of the magistrates and noble emigrants. Another square was set aside for the public service,—for churches, courts and schools. Across the neck of the peninsula a row of palisades was erected as a protection against the Indians.

It was expected that others of the patentees and devout Puritans would emigrate with their families, and that prosperous towns would spring up along the coast, within the 120 miles of the patent, which would become places of refuge for noble and generous spirits that might wish to escape from the vanities and perplexities of courtly life and feudal obligation, as well as for those who should flee from persecution, or seek by voluntary exile a sphere of religious freedom. But subsequently, a different turn of public affairs, and the fluctuations of fortune and opinion, effected a change in these designs. The higher classes of proposed emigrants found themselves more necessary or more comfortable at home. Statesmen and generals, princely merchants and titled noblemen, the Cromwells, Hampdens, Pymms and Hazlerigs remained behind, and left New England to be colonized, with a few exceptions, from the ranks of oppressed virtue, heroic faith, and adventurous poverty.

In December, 1644, Col. Fenwick entered into an agreement with the associated towns upon the river, forming the Colony of Connecticut, by which, for the sum of £1600, and the revenue for ten years arising from certain duties paid by vessels on entering the river, he transferred to them the fort and plantation at Saybrook, with all other rights and claims to the occupation, ownership and jurisdiction of lands upon Connecticut river, derived from the Warwick patent. He only reserved to himself certain personal privileges and especially the liberty of occupying his premises at the fort for ten years, if he should choose to remain for that time in the country.

From this period the settlement took a new start. It had been hitherto merely a military post; it was now a plantation, and the inhabitants increased rapidly. In 1646, a church was organized, and Mr. James Fitch ordained for its minister. In 1647, at the special instance and request of

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\* See letter of Rev. Mr. Davenport of New Haven, to Lady Vere; printed in Hist. and Gen. Reg., App. 1855, p. 149.

† Among the English nobility, a lady married to a commoner is allowed by courtesy to retain her maiden title.



the inhabitants, Capt. John Mason removed thither from Windsor, and was thereupon appointed by the Colony to the military command of the post. He was empowered to receive the fort and its appurtenances from Fenwick, who had apparently been left in possession until this time.

Saybrook Point, the part of the plantation first settled, is a neck of land, elliptical in form, and about a mile in length from east to west, spreading out between two coves or inlets from the river, of which the one on the north side affords a good harbor for shipping, and is known as Saybrook harbor. The fort stood on the eastern bank, or upland bluff, overlooking and commanding the flats and shallows at the mouth of the river.

This fort was built of wood. It caught fire in the winter of 1647, and was consumed, with the dwelling-house connected with it. Capt. Mason, with his wife and child, narrowly escaped from the flames.

Another fortification was soon afterward constructed, not on the same spot, but a few rods distant, upon a height which advanced more prominently toward the river, and was from that time called New Fort Hill. A portion of the walls and embankments of this second fort, (often, however, renewed in later times,) may yet be traced. Lady Fenwick died at Saybrook, in 1648, and was interred within the inclosure of the old fort. A monument of red sandstone erected over her remains is still extant, and has given to the site the name of Tomb Hill.

Saybrook has no church records of the period of Mr. Fitch's ministry, and the town records before 1660, are also wanting. A few items only of earlier date may be found standing amid subsequent entries. One of these, (perhaps the earliest remaining of a municipal character,) is a notice of a town meeting, January 7, 1655-6, at which the following persons were present :

Tho. Adgate,  
Robert Bull,  
Tho. Burchet,  
William Bushnell,  
Robert Chapman,  
John Clark, Sen.,  
Tho. Dunke,  
Richard Edgerton,  
Francis Griswold,

William Hide,  
Randall Marvin,  
William Parker,  
John Post,  
Stephen Post,  
Jonathan Rudd,  
Richard Tousland,  
Tho. Tracy,  
William Waller.

At the same time mention is made of Mr. Fitch and Mr. Lay. Nearly half of these are afterward found at Norwich. William Backus, Thomas Bliss, Morgan Bowers, the two Huntingtons, Thomas Leffingwell and John Olmstead, were probably inhabitants of as long standing as most of those in the list.

It is apparent that the plantation before 1660, had been extended over



a large area. The lands on Oyster river were cultivated; planters had settled at Pautipaug, Deep River, Six-mile-island, and on the east side of the Connecticut, in Lyme, which was then a dependency of Saybrook. A division of lands made before 1650, gives a list of forty grantees, and this number must have been nearly doubled in 1660.

The removal of Mr. Fitch and his friends, though it weakened Saybrook, by no means left it desolate. She had stout and valiant hearts left and in the course of a few years the vacancies made by the Norwich emigration were filled by fresh purchasers, and new grants and divisions of the common land were necessary in order to accommodate the thick coming planters. The church, however, languished under the loss of her golden head, and was scarcely kept alive until 1670, when the Rev. Thomas Buckingham, originally from Wales, but immediately from Milford, was settled as the pastor.\*

This preparatory sketch of Saybrook, the mother-town of Norwich, introduces us to the settlement of the latter place.

The project of establishing a plantation in the Mohegan territory, fourteen miles above New London, originated, in all probability, with Capt. Mason. When his previous adventures, his long familiarity with Uncas, and his frequent explorations of the Indian country, are considered, together with his influence in the Colony, there can be no hesitation in affirming that he was the prime mover and ruling spirit of the undertaking. If any one of the first proprietors, more than another, has a special claim to be considered the founder of Norwich, the pre-eminence must certainly be accorded to Mason. He had been one of the founders of Dorchester and Windsor, had re-awakened the breath of life, in the dying settlement at Saybrook, and was now ready for the fourth time to erect his lodge in the wilderness.

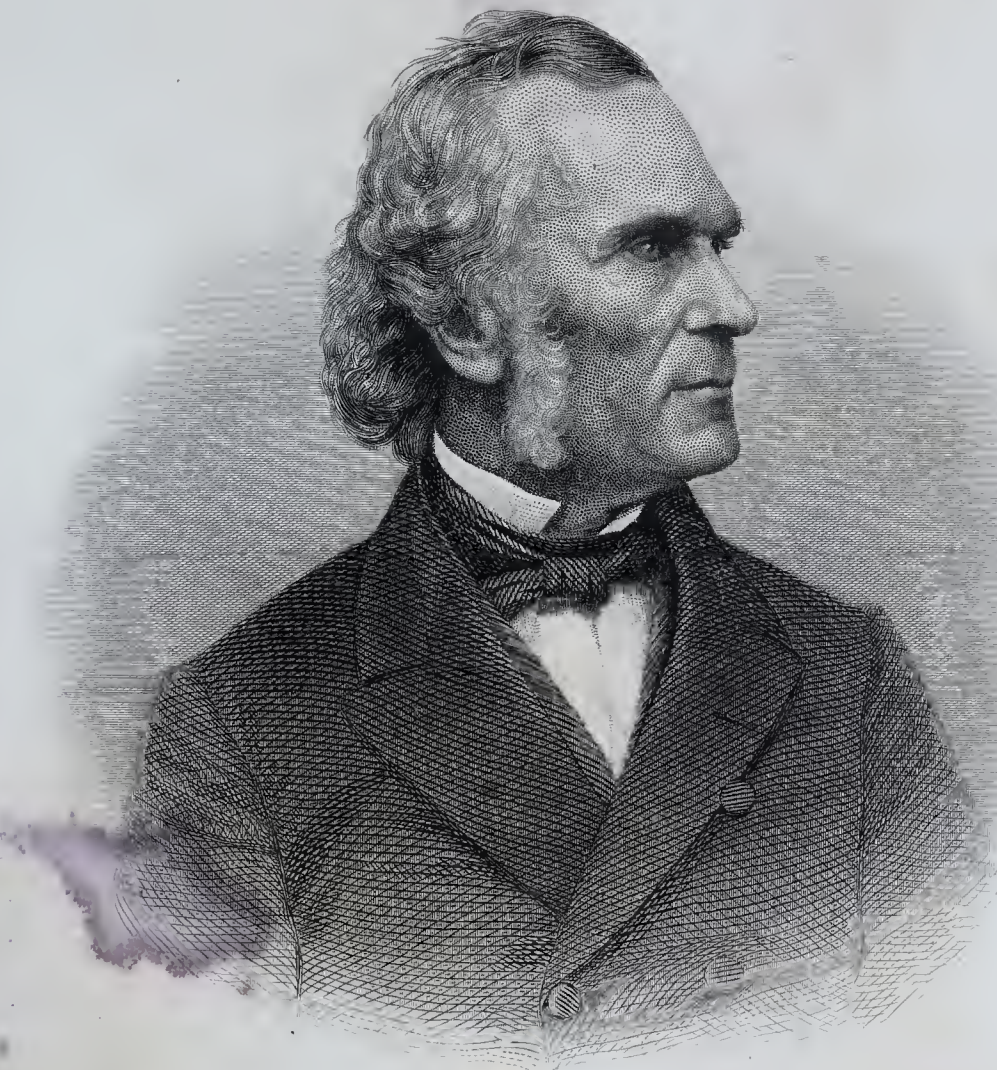
At what period the plan of this new settlement was broached is uncertain. Probably it was for several years under consideration. A large proportion of the best inhabitants of Saybrook entered into it; a few names from other places were added to the list, and in May, 1659, application was made to the General Court for permission to begin the work. The proposition was favorably received by the Assembly, and sanctioned by the following enactment:

Hartford, May 20, (59.) This Court haveing considered the petition presented by the inhabitants of Seabrook, doe declare yt they approve and consent to what is de-

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\* This worthy successor of Mr. Fitch, forms another link uniting Norwich with its ancient nursing mother Saybrook. Some of his descendants of the present generation, passing by way of Lebanon, have chosen Norwich for their home, and given to it the distinction of furnishing a second Chief Magistrate to the State. William Alfred Buckingham, Governor of Connecticut since 1858, is of the sixth generation in descent from the Rev. Thomas Buckingham of Saybrook.





Eng<sup>d</sup> by Geo. E. Perine & Co. N.Y.

W. W. Buckingham

GOVERNOR OF CONN.







sired by ye petitioners, respecting Mohegin, provided yt within ye space of three yeares they doe effect a plantation in ye place propounded.

It is to be regretted that no copy of the petition has been preserved. A list of the signers would be invaluable. The action of the court speaks of it as emanating from "the inhabitants of Seabrook," not from a company or a portion of the planters. This would seem to imply that the greater part of the people, or at least a majority, were proposing to remove to the new settlement; and this coincides with the current opinion, that the company consisted of Mr. Fitch and the major part of his church.

It would be gratifying also, to ascertain the motives which led these solid and considerate householders to determine upon a change of residence. What should induce them to abandon improvements which they had long labored to obtain, lands which they had subdued by toilsome cultivation, comfortable abodes and a civilized neighborhood, to plunge again into a wilderness and begin life anew, upon another savage soil, near a frontier bristling with alarm and terror. It was undoubtedly wise as a measure of State policy, to advance the settlements and erect a fresh barrier against Indian invasion, and this consideration may have been of weight with Major Mason and Mr. Fitch. But the majority must have had some alluring prospect of individual advantage, to counterbalance the sacrifices they were to make. Undoubtedly the moving cause was to be found in the sheltered vales and fine grazing lands, the sparkling, dashing streams, the wide ranges of upland forest, and the rich provisions for hunting and fishing which were included in the broad extent of the proposed township. These were the bright attractions that charmed the planters of Saybrook from their fertile plains and stoneless soil, and fixed their longing eyes upon the frowning cliffs and wild varieties of surface in the neighborhood of the Yantic, the Shetucket and the Quinebaug.

Another reason dissimilar, and apparently inadequate and frivolous, has been assigned, by local tradition, as the immediate, provoking cause of the removal. It has been said that the Norwich settlers, being for the most part farmers, were driven from Saybrook by the crows and black-birds. This story is at least suggestive of a great nuisance in the early days of our country. It is well known that clouds of these gormandizing fowls, darkening the sky, and filling the air with clamor, would come down upon the newly planted maize, in the late May or early June, when the young shoots could be easily torn up, and in a few days leave the fields of a whole district in ruin. These cormorants were peculiarly troublesome upon level corn-fields, near the sea, or large rivers, obliging the farmer to plant and replant, and sometimes destroying prematurely the whole harvest.

In most of the settlements by-laws were made rendering it obligatory upon every man to destroy, during the three spring months, a certain



number of crows, black-birds, wood-peckers, jays, and other grain-devouring birds. A dozen was the usual number required, with a premium for all over a dozen, and penalties imposed on those who fell short.\* Thus it appears that the early inhabitants of nearly all our towns were obliged to wage an annual war, not only with wild beasts, venomous serpents and pilfering animals that burrowed in the ground, but with predatory fowls swarming in the air.

But that the people of Saybrook were routed from their habitations, and forced into exile by the inroads of voracious birds, was doubtless a pleasant satire rather than a fact. President Styles notices the tradition in his diary, but dismisses it, expressing an opinion with which most people who consider the circumstances will coincide, that Mr. Fitch and his congregation relinquished their Saybrook grants in the hope of finding accommodations better adapted to their pursuits and aspirations at Norwich.

The enterprise having been sanctioned by the General Court, and the deed obtained from the Indians, the proprietors began to prepare for a removal. The township was surveyed, the town plot or central village laid out, a highway opened, and house-lots measured and assigned to the purchasers in the fall of 1659. By what rule the distribution was made is not known. The probability is that Mr. Fitch and Major Mason had the privilege of a first choice.

No removal of cattle or goods appears to have taken place until the next year. Doubtless some small cabins were erected, and a few persons remained on the ground to keep watch and guard. The flying attack made by the Narragansetts, already mentioned, shows that there was one English house and five Englishmen at Norwich during the winter; and this, as far as is known, comprises the whole settlement previous to the spring of 1660.†

The Mohegan territory, comprising all the lands claimed by Uncas and

\*A similar regulation was enforced at Colchester, so late as the year 1717.

“Voated to oblige every person in the town of sixteen years of age and upwards to kill one Duson of blaekbuds, or wood-peckers or gay burds, and bring their heads to the Select Men; and what are killed in the months of mareh aprell or may, six shall be counted as a duson; and if any person kills more than his Dusen he shall be allowed one penne pr head—and he that doth not kill his dusen shall pay to the town Rate one shilling.”

Taintor's Extracts from Records of Colchester, p. 19.

† In the MS. Journal of Thomas Minor of Stonington, this memorandum occurs, under date of 1659, Nov. 8th:

“We wer at Mohegon.”

It is tantalizing not to have him say more. But this being the precise month when the proprietors were laying out their lots in the Mohegan purchase, it may be conjectured that Minor went there as an assistant in surveys and measurements.



his tribe, by whatever name known, within the bounds of the Connecticut colony, was ceded by Uncas to the colonial authorities at Hartford, Sept. 28, 1640.\* This appears to have been regarded as a cession of jurisdiction only; for whenever afterward settlements were about to commence, a regular purchase of the place was made. Often also additional gratuities were made for special tracts within these purchased towns, by individuals.

When the settlement of Norwich was projected, the township was conveyed to the proprietors by Uncas and his sons, for the sum of seventy pounds. This was in June, 1659. Major Mason was at this period acting under a commission from the General Court, the object of which was to obtain a fresh conveyance to the colony of all the Mohegan lands not actually planted and improved by the tribe. In this business he was successful. A deed of cession was obtained, signed by Uncas and his brother Wawequaw, Aug. 15, 1659.† Thus it appears that the nine-miles-square of the Norwich purchase was three times legally transferred from the aborigines to the whites, and each time, apparently, in the way of fair and honorable dealing.

“On just and equal terms the land was gained;  
No force of arms hath any right obtained.”‡

The original deed of Norwich is not extant. In March, 1663, the General Court ordered it to be placed on record at Hartford.§ Apparently, in recording the deed, some slight variations from the original copy were allowed, for the phrase used by one of the contracting parties, viz., *Town and Inhabitants of Norwich*, seems to imply that a settlement had been made.

#### DEED OF NORWICH.||

Know all men that Onkos, Owanceo, Attawanhood, Sachems of Mohegan have Bargined, sold, and passed over, and doe by these presents sell and pass over unto the Towne and Inhabitants of Norwich nine miles square of land lying and being at

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\* Proceedings in the Mason controversy, transmitted to the Board of Trade and printed in London, 1743.

† Ibid. This deed was witnessed by Wm. Thompson, Thomas Leffingwell, and Benjamin Brewster.

‡ Roger Wolcott.

§ Conn. Col. Rec., 1, 393.

|| This is taken from the first book of Norwich Proprietary Records, into which it was transcribed about 1680, not apparently from the original deed, but from the copy recorded at Hartford in 1663. It has, however, some slight variations from the Hartford record. The latter has Monheag for Moheagen, and after Great River (line 11) is added, “commonly called Monheag river.”

This deed is also recorded at New London, (Deeds, V. I, 226,) where the orthography is Unchas, Owaneca, and Monheage.



Moheagen and the parts thereunto ajoyneing, with all ponds, rivers, woods, quarries, mines, with all royalties, privileges, and appurtenances thereunto belonging, to them the said inhabitants of Norwich, their heirs and successors forever—the said lands are to be bounded as followeth, (viz.) to the southward on the west side of the Great River, ye line is to begin at the brooke falling into the head of Trading Cove, and soe to run west norwest seven miles—from thence the line to run nor north east nine miles, and on the East side the afores'd river to the southward the line is to joyne with New London bounds as it is now laid out and soe to run east two miles from the foresd river, and soe from thence the line is to run nor noreast nine miles and from thence to run nor norwest nine miles to meet with the western line.—In consideration whereof the sd Onkos, Owaneeo and Attawanhood doe acknowledge to have received of the parties aforesd the full and juste sum of seventy pounds and doe promise and engage ourselves, heirs and successors, to warrant the sd bargain and sale to the aforesd parties, their heirs and successors, and them to defend from all elaimes and molestations from any whatsoever.—In witness whereof we have hereunto set to our hands this 6th of June, Anno 1659.

UNKOS



his marke

OWANECO



marke

ATTAWANHOOD



marke

Witness hereunto

JOHN MASON

THOMAS TRACY.

This deed is recorded in the Country Booke Agust 20th 1663 : as atests

JOHN ALLYN, Sec'y.

The bounds of this tract, as more particularly described in the first volume of the Proprietors' Records, were as follows:

The line commenced at the mouth of Trading Cove, where the brook falls into the cove; thence W. N. W. seven miles to a Great Pond, [now in the corner of Bozrah and Colchester,] the limit in this direction being denoted by a black oak marked N that stood near the outlet of the "Great Brook that runs out of the pond to Norwich river;" thence N. N. E. nine miles to a black oak standing on the south side of the river, [Shetucket,] "a little above Maw-mi-ag-waug;" thence S. S. E. nine miles, crossing the Shetucket and the Quinebaug, and passing through "a Seader Swamp called Catantaquack," to a white oak tree, marked N, thirteen rods beyond a brook called Quo-qui-qua-soug, the space from the Quinebaug to this tree being just one mile and fifty-eight rods; thence



S. S. W. nine miles to a white oak marked N, near the dwelling-houses of Robert Allyn and Thomas Rose, where Norwich and New London bounds join; thence west on the New London bounds, crossing the southern part of Mr. Brewster's land, two miles to Mohegan river, opposite the mouth of Trading Cove brook, where the first bounds began.

Such were the bounds, as reviewed and renewed in October, 1685, by an authorized committee, accompanied by the two sachems and some of the chief men of Mohegan. The former deed of 1659, with the boundaries thus described and explained, was then ratified and confirmed by "Owaneca, sachem of Mohegan, son and heire unto Vnchas deceased," and "Josiah, son and heire unto Owaneca," in a new deed, signed by them Oct. 5th, 1685, witnessed by John Arnold and Stephen Gifford, and acknowledged before James Fitch, Assistant.\*

The southern boundary line, it will be observed, is nine miles in length, two east of the river, and seven west, without counting the breadth of the Thames, and the length of Trading Cove to the mouth of the brook, which would make this line nearly ten miles long. This is explained in the deed to be designed as a compensation for "the benefit and liberty of the waters and river for fishing and other occasions," reserved to the Indians.

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\* Recorded at Hartford, Liber D, folio 104. Also at New London, Book 6, folio 226.



## CHAPTER IV.

### PROPRIETORS AND HOUSE-LOTS.

Who were the original proprietors of Norwich? The current statement that they were just thirty-five in number, is based upon the authority of historians writing more than a century after the settlement. Dr. Trumbull in his History of Connecticut gives this number, relying, it is supposed, upon a list furnished in 1767 by the Rev. Dr. Lord, pastor of the First Church of Norwich. Dr. Lord's manuscript is extant. He says:

"The town of Norwich was settled in the spring of 1660: the Purchase of sd Town was made in ye month of June, 1659, by 35\* men."

He then gives a list of the names, which includes several who were minors at that time, and one at least [John Elderkin] whose earliest grant at Norwich was in 1667.

Laying aside therefore all subsequent statements, and recurring to the oldest records remaining at Norwich, from which these abstracts must have been derived, it is found that the original records were very deficient in giving dates to the early grants. Resolutions passed at different periods, in the town meetings, refer to this defect.

In 1672, a new record of lands was made under direction of the town authorities, by James Fitch, Jr. It was commenced May 1st of that year, and the book contains a registry of the town lands and grants, "so far as copies of said lands were brought in by the inhabitants." The number of land-owners recorded is seventy-eight, three or four of whom were non-residents.

In 1681, the inhabitants declaring themselves sensible of a deficiency in their original records, appointed three of the first-comers, Thomas Lefingwell, Thomas Adgate, and John Post, to search for the original dates of former acts and grants, but nothing appears to have been done under this commission.

May 3d, 1684, Christopher Huntington, Recorder, at the request of John Olmstead, who, he says, "desireth to have the primitive date set to his record of land, which hath not been done heretofore for the want of

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\* Altered in the MS. from 34, and John Elderkin interlined.



an orderly dating by the first recorder, Mr. Birchard," ascertains the true date, and affixes it under his signature,—“which date we find out of an antient wrighting which respects our purchase interest, and right, to be in the yeare of our Lord upon the 30th day of June 1659.”

Again, Dec. 18th, 1694, the town, after adverting to their former negligence in the record of proprietary lands, nominated a committee of six men “to search out and do the best they can to find the names of first purchasers, and what estate each of them put in, and report to the town.”

The striking fact is here disclosed, that in little more than thirty years after the settlement, the number of the first proprietors, the amount of each one's subscription, and the names of all the purchasers, were not generally known and could not be determined without some difficulty.

No report of the last commission is recorded. Not long afterwards Capt. James Fitch was employed in the same business. He began a new registry of lands, copying original records where he could find them, stating bounds as they then existed, and affixing dates as nearly accurate as could be ascertained. It is from this registry that the various lists of the thirty-five proprietors have been gathered. Home lots, that seem to have constituted original grants, not having been alienated or purchased, were in general dated November, 1659. But the whole number that appears to be included under this date, either expressly or by implication, is thirty-eight, and it is difficult to decide which of these should be rejected, so as to leave the number just thirty-five.

The following list comprises those against whom not only nothing is found to militate against their being ranked as first proprietors, but, on the contrary, the records either prove conclusively, or favor the idea, that they belonged to that class :

Rev. James Fitch,  
Major John Mason,  
Thomas Adgate,  
Robert Allyn,  
William Backus,  
William Backus, Jr.,  
John Baldwin,  
John Birchard,  
Thomas Bliss,  
Morgan Bowers,  
Hugh Calkins,  
John Calkins,  
Richard Edgerton,  
Francis Griswold,

Christopher Huntington,  
Simon Huntington,  
William Hyde,  
Samuel Hyde,  
Thomas Leffingwell,  
John Olmstead,  
John Pease,  
John Post,  
Thomas Post,  
John Reynolds,  
Jonathan Royce,  
Nehemiah Smith,  
Thomas Tracy,  
Robert Wade.

Others having original home-lots and all the privileges of first proprietors, were :



Thomas Bingham,  
John Bradford,  
John Gager,  
Stephen Gifford,  
Richard Hendy,

Thomas Howard,  
Thomas Waterman,  
John Tracy,  
Josiah Reed,  
Richard Wallis.

Of this second class, Bingham, Gifford, Howard, Reed, Tracy and Waterman, were probably minors when the plantation commenced. They were all married between 1666 and 1670, inclusive, and were all living, except Howard, in 1702, when a roll of the inhabitants was made in reference to a division of lands which distinguished the surviving first proprietors from the list of accepted inhabitants. Bingham, Gifford, Reed, Tracy and Waterman, were enrolled with the latter, which would seem to settle the point that they were not original proprietors.

Most of these names, however, are necessary in order to make up the charmed number thirty-five. From the position these young men took, and the prominence of their descendants in the history of the town, they seem to have a higher claim to be ranked as proprietors than some of the earlier class, Hendy and Wallis, for instance, of whom we know little more than their names, and Wade, who soon alienated his possessions. By dropping these three names, and accepting the six minors, we are brought back to the time-honored prescriptive number, *Thirty-five*.

Stephen Backus, another minor, became a proprietor in the right of his father, William Backus, who died soon after the settlement.

The Town-plot was laid out in a winding vale, which followed the course of the rapid circuitous Yantic, and was sheltered for the greater part of the way, on either side, by abrupt and rocky, but well-wooded hills. A broad street or highway was opened through this valley, on each side of which the home-lots were arranged.

A pathway was likewise cleared from the center of the settlement, to the Indian landing place below the Falls of the Yantic, near the head of the Cove; following the old Indian trail from Ox-hill to Yantic ford. This path, called by the settlers Mill-Lane, was the most eligible route by which the effects of the planters could be conveyed. In some places the forests had been thinned of their undergrowth by fires, to afford scope for the Indians in their passionate love of the chase, and the beaver had done his part towards clearing the lowlands and banks of the rivers. A few wigwams were scattered here and there, the occasional abodes of wandering families of Indians at certain seasons of the year, who came hither for supplies of fish, fruit, or game; and the summits of some of the hills were crowned with disorderly heaps of stones, showing where some rude defence had been constructed in the course of their wars. But in every other respect the land was in its natural wild state. It was a laborious task to cut down trees, to burn the underbrush,



to mark out roads and pathways, to throw temporary bridges over the runs of water, and to collect materials for building.

The home-lots comprised each a block of several acres, and were in general river-lands, favorable for mowing, pasture and tillage. Here lay the prime advantage to be gained by a change of residence, the first proprietors being, with scarcely a single exception, agriculturists and farmers.

Each homestead had a tract of pasture land included in it, or laid out as near to it as was convenient. Where the street approached the river, the planters had their pasture lots, in the same line with the house lots on the opposite side of the stream.

Near the center of the Town-plot an open space was left for public buildings and military parades. This was soon known as the Green, or Plain. Here stood the first meeting-house, toward the south side, with the open Common around it, and a steep pitch to the river. Of its erection there is no record. It was probably built as the bridges were, by a general turn-out of the effective inhabitants, laboring under the direction of the best workman among them.

The dwellings of Mr. Fitch and Major Mason were near together, facing the Green, and with the river in their rear. The road running from the Green to the river, and spanning the stream with a bridge, separated the two homesteads. The allotment of Mr. Fitch, consisting of eleven acres, was on the south-east side of the Green; the home-lot of Mason, "eight acres more or less,"—the early measurements were extremely liberal,—was on the south-west side.

The first wife of Mr. Fitch died at Saybrook, in September, 1659. He came to Norwich a widower, with six children; two of them sons, five and eleven years of age, who became active business men, and appear in so short a time taking part in the affairs of the town that it might be a pardonable inaccuracy were they ranked as original planters.

Three acres of Mr. Fitch's home-lot he afterward transferred to his son, Capt. James Fitch.

On the north-west side of the Green, covering the ledgy side hill, was the allotment of Stephen Gifford. This was afterward bought by the town for parsonage land. On this hill, in the time of Philip's war, the meeting-house, the second sacred edifice of the town, stood.

At the east end of the Green was the homestead of Simon Huntington. His lot was laid out on both sides of the street, with a pleasant rivulet running through it and a lane winding into the woods on one side, separating his land from that of his neighbor, Bradford. The dwelling-house of the late Gen. Z. Huntington, stands on a portion of the original lot, which has never been alienated, but is still in the possession of descendants to whom it comes by inheritance.

On the river, south-east of Mr. Fitch, was the lot of John Olmstead,



eight acres; and next to him that of William Backus, Senior, six acres. Mr. Backus died soon after the settlement, and left his accommodations to his son Stephen, in whose name they were subsequently registered.

“Memorando: the footeway six foote broad which goes through the home lot of Mr. Fitch John Holmstead and Steven Backus was laid out by Towne order and agreement for the use of the towne, in August 1661.”

This path, for more than a century, remained a pent-way, with a gate and turn-stile at each end, and when at last, that is, a little before the revolutionary war, it was widened into a road and thrown open to the public, it was dark with shrubbery and overhanging trees, and known as the road through the Grove.

Thomas Tracy's home-lot lay east of Simon Huntington's, on the south side of the street, which here runs nearly east and west. It consisted of nine acres, measuring thirty-four rods on the street. His son Solomon afterwards built a second Tracy house on a part of the same lot.

John Bradford, four acres, opposite Tracy, with the street and highways on all sides. “Mr. John Bradford's corner,” was quoted as a landmark. This was at the east end of his lot, where what was then called “the road to Shetucket” began.

Christopher Huntington, six acres, east of Thomas Tracy, with the brook between them. His house was at the corner, and the homestead remained in the family down to the present generation.

By the detours of the street, first east and then south, a large central space was left in the town plot which included a dark and dolorous swamp, antecedently the haunt of wolves and venomous serpents, from whence it is said, often at night-fall low howlings issued and phosphorescent lights were seen, very fearful and appalling to the early planters. In this swamp Huntington's and Bradford's brook united and flowed into the Yantic. These are now insignificant rills, confined in channels, or only gleaming like silvery lines amid the grass; but when the country was in its natural state, they were loud-voiced, swift-footed streams.

South of Huntington's corner was a ravine, with a pitch of several feet, through which, in times of abundant rain, another gurgling stream, formed by rivulets trickling down from Sentry Hill, passed into the dense alder swamp below.

South of this ravine was the allotment of Thomas Adgate, whose land met that of Olmstead at the corner, completing the circle of home-lots around the central block.

Opposite the homestead of Adgate a branch of the town street ascended Sentry Hill and came down again to the main road below the corner, in the line of the old Indian trail toward the fords of the Yantic.

Upon this side road near where it came into the Town street, was the



lot of Sergt. Thomas Leffingwell, twelve acres, with an additional pasture lot of ten acres, with Indian wigwams then upon it, "abutting easterly upon the rocks." The house lot was eighty-six rods in length upon the narrow highway. The residence of the late Judge Hyde (originally a Leffingwell mansion,) stands on this old house lot; but the first house built upon it by the ancient proprietor is supposed to have stood on the opposite side of the road, founded upon a rock and sheltered by the hill.

Sergt. Leffingwell was peculiarly the soldier and guardsman of the new town, and Sentry Hill was the look-out post, commanding the customary Indian route from Narragansett to Mohegan. A sentry box was built on the summit, and in times of danger and excitement a constant watch was kept from the height. Here too, in the war with Philip, a small guard-house was built, sufficient for some ten or twelve soldiers to be housed. It has of late been called Center Hill, an unconscious change from Sentry, that has probably obtained currency from the supposition that the name referred to its position among other elevations in this multitude of hills. Nor is the name at present inapplicable, this being not far from the center of the modern township, though by no means central in reference to the original nine miles square.

North of Leffingwell, and stretching toward Ox Hill, grants were laid out to Richard Hendy, Josiah Reed, and Richard Wallis, with the commons for their principal boundaries.

Next to Leffingwell, on the street as it runs south, was the allotment of Thomas Bliss; five acres and a fourth, with a lane on the south leading to a watering-place at the river. This homestead is still in the occupation of his descendants, and the house itself in its frame-work is doubtless the original habitation built by the first grantee.

John Reynolds, southeast of Thomas Bliss, six acres; bounded south by the highway to the old landing-place, i. e., mill-lane. This is another homestead which has descended by inheritance to the present generation.

Here was the eastern frontier of the town plot. A dense and miry thicket lay between the mill-lane and the upland plain below.

Returning to the Green which divided the settlement into East and West Ends, the proprietors were arranged along the street and river, west of Major Mason, in the following order:

Thomas Waterman, seven acres.

Thomas Bingham, four acres; a s<sup>outh</sup> running from the street to the river.

John Post, six acres.

The meadow land of Waterman and his neighbor Post is incidentally mentioned at an early date. This meadow, which lay in the rear of the old Waterman and Post homesteads, has recently become the seat of a large manufacturing establishment.



The Waterman house was nearly opposite the residence of the late Dr. Turner. The Post house stood by the side of a noisy rivulet that crossed the street and leaped down to the glen below. The older portion of the house still standing on the spot, is supposed to have been a part of the original dwelling built by the first John Post.

John Birchard, seven and one-fourth acres: sixteen rods and eleven feet in front. Mr. Birchard's house is supposed to be the one still extant at the entrance of Hammer-brook lane, and, taken as a whole, is without doubt the most ancient house remaining in Norwich. It has had various owners and occupants, but no lean-tos, porches, additions or improvements of any kind have changed its original outward form. According to tradition, it was fortified in the time of Philip's war, and a garrison kept in it, who made port-holes under the roof, through which to fire if they should be attacked.

Robert Wade, six acres: sixteen rods front. This lot was sold in 1677 to Caleb Abell, and better known as the Abell homestead.

Adjoining Wade, but with boundaries and situation uncertain, was the lot of Morgan Bowers. Probably his house was in Hammer-brook lane.

Opposite Post and Birchard, on the northeast side of the street, were the allotments of William Hyde and his son Samuel, extending back into the commons. The Hyde house stood a few rods back from the town street, upon the "highway into the woods," as the lane was then called, near the present residence of Henry B. Tracy. The father and son probably formed but one family. The Mansfield house, built by one of the later Hydes, on a part of the old home-lot, has descended to the present owner by inheritance on the maternal side from the Hydes, and has never been conveyed out of the family.

Next west of Robert Wade, on the river side of the street, was the home-lot of John Gager, eleven and a half acres; part of it a dense swamp, and Hammer brook running through it.

Thomas Post, adjoining Gager, on the upland, six acres; "a burying-place excepted that lyeth within his lot, and also a way to it."

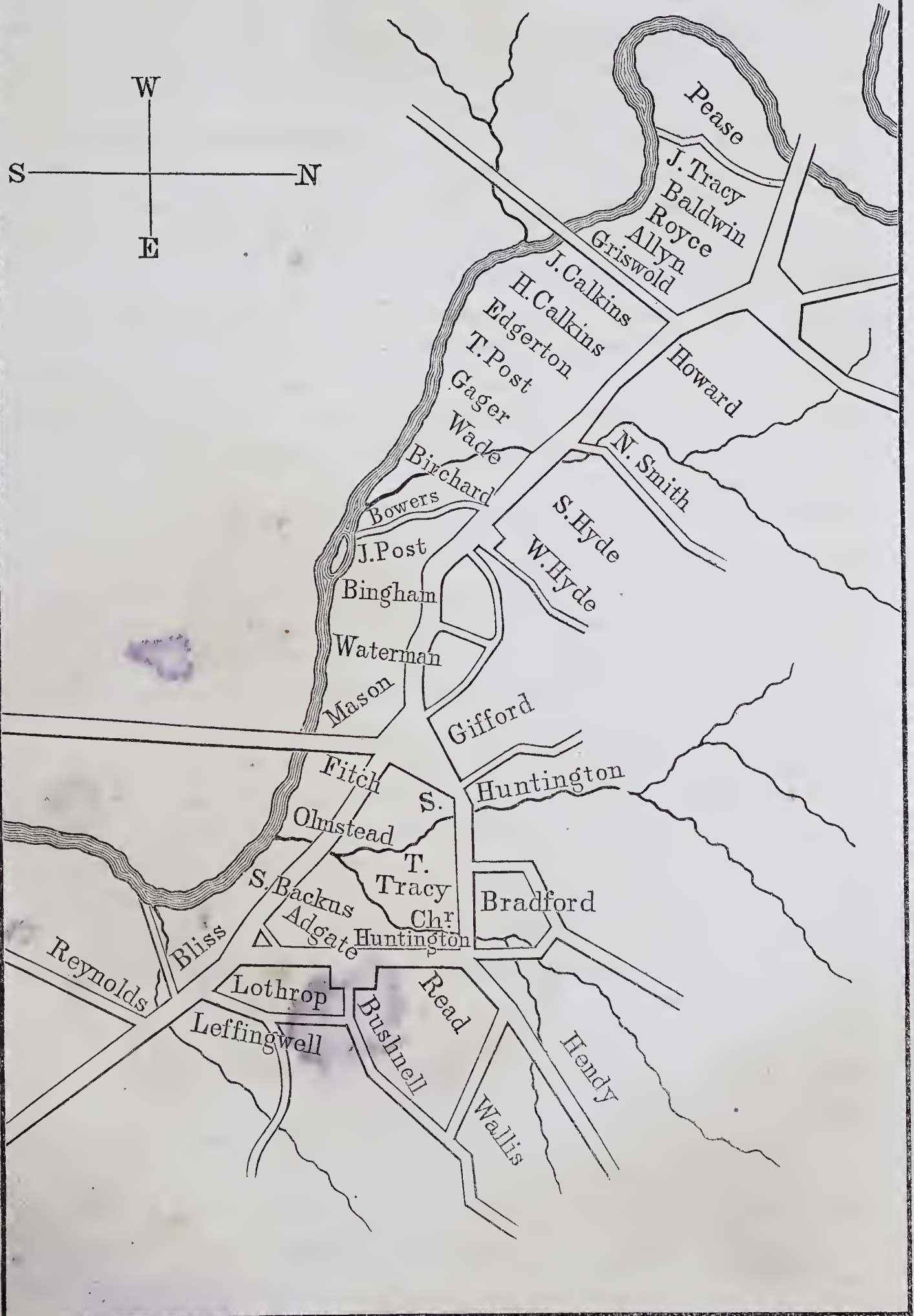
On the other side of the street were the locations of Nehemiah Smith [fifteen acres] and Thomas Howard, with Hammer brook running between them.

Beyond Thomas Post on the northwest, with lots reaching from the town street to the river, were the following proprietors in regular succession:

Richard Edgerton, six acres; William Backus, six; Hugh Calkins, six; John Calkins, four and three-fourths; Francis Griswold, seven; Kobert Allyn, five; Jonathan Royce, six; John Baldwin, 5; John Tracy, twelve; John Pease, seven, with the river on the northwest, west and south.



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This was at the western limit of the town-plot, where the river by a sudden turn to the southwest crossed the street at right angles.

These thirty-eight lots were the first laid out, and though not all in 1659, and some perhaps not till several years later, those who held them, whether immediate possessors or not, were commonly reckoned original proprietors.

As heretofore intimated, several of these first home-lots, or parts of them—those of William Hyde, Simon Huntington, Thomas Leffingwell, Thomas Bliss, and John Reynolds—shorn indeed of their original dimensions and of their first-built dwellings, but each a portion of the original grant of November, 1659, and with a representative house upon it, the most recent of which dates backward more than a century, remain in the possession and occupancy of descendants, having never been alienated, sold, or purchased, but descending by inheritance to the present day. In a country where the tenure is allodial and there are no rights of primogeniture or laws of entailment, instances of two hundred years of family ownership are not very common. Similar examples are to be found among the farms within the Nine-miles-square, but the home-lots above named are supposed to be all that claim the distinction within the present bounds of Norwich.

After the first thirty-eight proprietors, the next inhabitants who come in as grantees of the town, are John Elderkin and Samuel Lothrop. Elderkin had two home-lots granted him in remuneration of services. The first grant of 1667 was laid out in the town plot, but being at too great a distance from his business, it was conveyed, with consent of the townsmen, to Samuel Lothrop, 24th August, 1668. Another was given him at the old landing-place below the Falls, where, according to contract, he built a grist-mill for the convenience of the town.

The Lothrop house-lot comprised six acres, and had a street, highway, or lane on every side of it. Probably it lay on the side-hill opposite Adgate's. The early intermarriages in the families of Lothrop, Leffingwell, Adgate, and Bushnell, leading them to divide house-lots and settle in contiguous homes, make it difficult to determine the precise situation of each original grant. We can be confident only that these families had their first dwellings near together at the east end of the town plot.

The first Samuel Lothrop appears to have erected a house on the town street before 1670. The house built by Dr. Daniel Lathrop\* about the year 1745, probably stands on the same site.

Samuel Lothrop, Jr., in 1679, had a piece of land given him by the town, to build upon, "near his father's home-lot," upon which he is supposed to have built the house that subsequently belonged to Col. Simon Lathrop, and still later to Rufus Lathrop Huntington. A noted pine-tree,

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\* Now Mrs. Gilman's.



originally of great size and height, stood near and pointed out the site even after the house was demolished. But within a few years, this interesting landmark, the old Lathrop pine, reminding us of the stout Louisburg Colonel, has disappeared.

The next householders after these were the older sons of proprietors, of whom the most distinguished were John and Daniel Mason, sons of the Major, Capt. James Fitch, and Richard and Joseph Bushnell, sons of Mrs. Adgate. These are all ranked as first-comers, taking part in the affairs of the first generation.

Richard Bushnell's residence stood conspicuously upon the side-hill, where is now the mansion of Daniel W. Coit, Esq. Courts of larger or lesser significance and meetings of various kinds were held there. One of the Courts of Commission appointed by royal authority to settle the Mohegan controversy, is said to have held its sessions in the great square room of the Bushnell house.

A careful examination of the grants and proprietary records shows that in 1672 land had been recorded to only seventy-seven persons within the town limits.

In April, 1661, the first division land was laid out, (this included the Little Plain); in 1663, the second division land, which lay towards Lebanon; and in 1668, the third, upon Quinebaug river. After a few years, almost every citizen owned land in eight or ten different parcels. For the first eighty or one hundred years, very few of the homesteads seem to have been alienated. They passed from one occupant to another, by quiet inheritance, and in many cases were split into two or three portions, among the sons, who settled down by the side of their fathers.

The impression made by the scenery upon the minds of the planters, at their first arrival, must have been on the whole of a hopeful though solemn character. The frowning ledges of rock, with which the place so peculiarly abounds, and the immense preponderance of forest, chastened the landscape almost into gloom. Many of the rocky heights were rendered impervious with stunted cedar, spruce, hemlock, juniper, savin, and the whole family of evergreen trees. The uplands and declivities were covered with groves of oak, walnut, chestnut and maple, and having been partially cleared of underwood, were designated as Indian hunting grounds. The lowlands were dense with alder, willow, hazlenut, and other shrubs; and the plains, now so smooth and grassy, were rough with bogs and stumps, mullein, thistle, and various unsightly weeds. The inequalities of the ground were much greater than at present. Running waters now scantily trickling down the rocks, or murmuring over a few small stones, were then rushing torrents, and the little brooks that creep under the streets in concealed channels, were broad streams, to be forded with care, or avoided by tedious circuits. Flowering plants and shrubs were com-



paratively abundant, and the settlers must have been regaled with a succession of scents and blossoms, from the arbutus, the shad-flower, the dog-wood, the early honeysuckle, and the laurel, which, at the time of their removal, were in bloom. Birds and animals of almost every species belonging to the climate, were numerous to an uncommon degree. The evening air often brought with it from the dingles and swamps of the neighborhood, low howlings or melancholy whines, mingled with the hoots and plaints of owl and screech-owl, or the less demonstrative but more nerve-trying hiss and rattle of the venomous serpent tribes.

To complete the view, it may be added, that the streams swarmed with fish and wild fowl; in the brooks and meadows were found the beaver and the otter; and through the whole scene stalked at intervals the Indian and the deer.

On this spot the hardy race of Puritans sat down with a determination to make the wilderness smile around them, to build up the institutions of religion and education, and to leave their children members of a secure and cultivated community. They were a fearless and resolute people, most of them being men of tried fortitude and experience, upright and devout, industrious and enterprising. Though assembled from many different places, they were bound together by a common faith, a common interest, and a common danger. They were an associated body, both in their civil and ecclesiastical capacity, and only a few weeks were necessary to give them the form and stability of a well-ordered society.

There was a peculiarity in the foundation of Norwich, that distinguishes it from most other settlements in this part of the country. It did not begin in a random, fragmentary way, receiving accessions from this quarter and that, till it gradually grew into a compact form and stable condition; but came upon the ground, a town and a church. The inhabitants were not a body of adventurers, fortuitously thrown together, but an association, carrying their laws, as well as their liberties, with them; each member bound to consult the general good, as well as his own individual advantage. Steady habits, patient endurance, manly toil, and serene intelligence, settled with them, inspiring and efficient though quiet housemates. In the early days of the township, the inhabitants labored hard, but every man helped his neighbor. Trespasses were rare; a grand decorum of manners prevailed; sympathy, kindly counsel and friendly assistance softened the rigors of the wilderness, and the hearts of all were strengthened with the constant cheer of gospel promises. All the enactments and proceedings of these fathers of the town, all that we can gather concerning them from records or tradition, exhibits a well-organized community,—a people, bold, earnest, thoughtful, with the ring of the true metal in their transactions.

The whole course of history furnishes no fairer model of a Christian settlement.



## CHAPTER V.

### NAME OF THE TOWN. FIRST THINGS AND EARLY CUSTOMS.

THE name, *Norwich*, was probably selected for the new township before the actual settlement, but it did not come immediately into familiar use. For the first two or three years it was generally known as the new township of Mohegan. The earliest notice of the English name upon the records of the General Court is in March, 1660-1, where "the Constable at Seabrook" is required to levy a certain sum "upon ye estates of such at Norridge as are defective in their rates."\*

The settlement appears to have been accepted and enrolled as a legal township, under the government of Connecticut, in May, 1662. The act is omitted in the records of the General Court, but during the session of October preceding, the following order was issued:

"This Court orders ye Secretary to write a letter to Norridge, to send vp a Committee in May next invested with full [power] to issue ye affair respecting settling that Plantation vnder this Government."†

The name was undoubtedly bestowed in honorable remembrance of Norwich in England; but why? Was it suggested by resemblance of situation, or was there anything about the old English city so becoming and acceptable to the minds of these dwellers in the wilderness, that they wished their settlement to become a New-Norwich? The most natural supposition is, that the prominent persons engaged in the new plantation came from old Norwich, and wished to perpetuate the familiar name by giving it to their American home. But as yet, no such connection has been traced between the ancient city and the new settlement, except through the brothers Huntington, and even with them the link is uncer-

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\* Conn. Col. Rec., 1, 362.

† Ibid., 1, 374. In early records it is often called New-Norwich. In a journal kept by Thomas Miner of Stonington, and preserved by his descendants in MS., there are, from 1662 to 1676, fifteen references to Norwich, but they are chiefly bare memorandums of going thither, with nothing suggestive about them but the variations in spelling the name. In three places it is correct; the other changes are Norwitch, Norwhich, Norwige, Norwig, Norige.



tain or slight. Major Mason was the controlling spirit of the party, and without doubt the name was either suggested in the first place by him, or sanctioned by his special favor. If Norwich, the capital of Norfolk Co., England, had been the place of his nativity, it would be easy to account for the planting of the name in this new soil. But it is not known where Major Mason was born.

The original meaning of the word *Norwich*, renders its application to the new township strikingly appropriate. It is derived from *North-wic*, a Saxon name, signifying *North-Castle*, and the formidable piles of rocks found here, some of them crowned with the stone forts of the Indians, are forcibly suggestive of walls, towers and battlements.

*Mill.* In settling a plantation, one of the first necessities to be provided for was the grinding of corn. Maize was the common grain, and a mill was indispensable.

The earliest town act of which any record has been recovered, bears the date of Dec. 11, 1660. It is the renewal of a contract stated to have been made at Saybrook, Feb. 26, 1655,\* [probably should be 1659-60,] between John Elderkin on the one hand, and "the town of Moheagan" on the other, to erect a corn-mill, either by the home-lot of John Pease, [at Yantic, western extremity of the town-plot,] or at No-man's Acre, to be completed before Nov. 1, 1661, under penalty of forfeiting \$20. The toll allowed was to be  $\frac{1}{16}$ , and a tract of land was pledged as a compensation for the erection of the mill.

Elderkin's mill, erected first at No-man's Acre, was soon removed to a situation below the Falls, and new grants and privileges were bestowed upon the proprietor, that it might be well sustained. Here for a long course of years stood the mill and the miller's house. This had formerly been a noted landing-place of the Indians. A fine spring of pure water gushed copiously from the side-hill near by, which was literally a perpetual fountain of sweet waters, with no record or tradition of its having failed but once, and that was in the great drought of 1676.

The Mill Falls, Elderkin's Mill, "the valley near the mill in which the Spring is," "the deep valley that goeth down to goodman Elderkin's house," and "the island before his house at the Mill Falls," are all

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\* This date, 1655, is a mistake of the recorder. In 1701, a controversy having arisen between the Town and the second John Elderkin respecting the mill, a committee was appointed to review what was called the old Covenant with Elderkin, and give a clear statement of the case. In their report they affirm that Elderkin was obligated to maintain a mill for the use of the town, or forfeit the lands and privileges appertaining to the mill. To the record of this report a notice is appended, that the old agreement with Elderkin, "bearing date 1655, the town do now declare to be an error in the date." The true date is not given, but probably it was during the winter of 1659-60.



referred to in the early records, with circumstances indicating that they were locally grouped together.

Forty acres on the south side of the Little Plain side-hills, upon the cove, were given to the mill, "to lye to it with the Landing Place, for the use of the town," and to be improved by John Elderkin, the miller.

This grant covered the Indian burying-place, and was coupled with a reservation that the Indians should have free access to the spot, and the right of sepulture—privileges which it may be inferred from this stipulation the town had promised to Uncas. The grant extended over the greater part of what is now Washington street. It was afterwards purchased by Col. Simon Lathrop.

*First Births.* Elizabeth Hyde, born in August, 1660,\* was the first-born child of the plantation. The parents, Samuel Hyde and Jane Lee, had been married the preceding year at Saybrook. The house where this first daughter of Norwich opened her eyes upon the world, stood on a declivity sloping to the town street, with higher land in the back-ground, bristling with massive rocks and heavily shadowed with chestnut and oak. This homestead remained in the Hyde family for five generations, the last occupant of the name being Elisha Hyde, Esq., Mayor of the city.†

The second offspring of the plantation was also a female—Anne, daughter of Thomas Bliss, born in September, 1660.

Elizabeth Hyde married Richard Lord of Saybrook.

Anne Bliss married Josiah Rockwell.

The first-born male child was Christopher, son of Christopher and Ruth Huntington, Nov. 1. There is no record of any other births during the year 1660.

The following occurred during the first five years of the settlement. They were not registered at the time, but are gathered from subsequent records. This list may not comprise the whole number of births during that period, but no others have been traced.

1661. Sarah, dr. of John Birchard; Deborah, dr. of Francis Griswold; both born in May. Sarah Birchard died young. Deborah Griswold married Jonathan Crane.

John, son of John Calkins, born in July.

Abigail, dr. of Thomas Adgate, in August.

Joseph, son of Simon Huntington, in September.

1662. Elizabeth, dr. of Jonathan Royce, in January.

John, son of William Backus, Feb. 9.

John, son of Richard Edgerton, June 12.

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\* In the town registry of these ancient births, the day of the month is seldom given. Mr. Birchard, the first clerk, was very remiss in this respect.

† The present residence of H. B. Tracy, Esq.



- Thomas, son of John Baldwin; no record of his birth found, but his age shows that he was born this year.\*
1663. Rebecca, dr. of Thomas Bliss, in March.  
 Lydia, dr. of John Gager, in August. She married Simon Huntington, who was born at Saybrook in 1659.  
 Samuel, son of John Calkins, in October.  
 John, son of Jonathan Royce, in November.
1664. Sarah, dr. of Thomas Adgate, in January.  
 Elizabeth, daughter of Simon Huntington, in February, and died in infancy.  
 Mary, dr. of John Reynolds, in April. She married John Edgerton, above named, (born 1662.)  
 Abigail, dr. of John Post, Nov. 6.  
 Thomas, son of Thomas Post, in December.
1665. Thomas, son of Christopher Huntington, March 18.  
 Samuel, son of William Backus, May 2; died young.  
 James, son of John Birchard, July 16.  
 Daniel, son of Rev. James Fitch, in August.  
 Samuel, son of Francis Griswold, in September.  
 Sarah, dr. of Jonathan Royce, in October.

*Deaths.* The earliest death on record is that of Sarah, wife of Thomas Post, who died in March, 1661, and was buried in a corner of her husband's home-lot, "adjoining Goodman Gadger's lot."

The elder William Backus was probably the second person, at least the second of mature age, summoned from the plantation. His will is dated June 12, 1661, and though the time of his death is not known, it may be inferred that he died shortly afterward. The arrangements of the will show that the testator considered himself near death. The homestead which he left to Stephen is recorded to the latter with the date 1661. Moreover, the testator nowhere appears after that period, and his son, William Backus, is mentioned in 1662 without the distinction of junior.

*Marriages.* Of the first marriage in the plantation no special information has come down to us, either by record or tradition. Most of the proprietors were men of mature years, with considerable families, and among the younger class several marriages had taken place at Saybrook within two or three years previous, in anticipation of the settlement. Thomas Post was married to his second wife, Rebecca, daughter of Obadiah Bruen, Sept. 2, 1663, but the rite was undoubtedly performed at her father's house in New London. We may therefore conclude that the first nuptial ceremony within the bounds of the new plantation, was that in which its widowed minister, the Rev. James Fitch, was united to Priscilla Mason. This was in October, 1664, and as the marriage service was then commonly performed by a magistrate, we may suppose that Major Mason himself officiated upon the occasion.

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\* He died Sept. 16, 1741, in the 80th year of his age.



*Miscellaneous Details.* The early houses of our country covered a large area, but they were seldom thoroughly finished, and the upper rooms of course were cold and comfortless. A snug, well-finished house, adapted to the family and circumstances of the owner, is an improvement of modern times. These old houses were generally square, heavy buildings, with stone chimneys that occupied a large space in the center. The posts and rafters were of great size and solidity, and in the rooms heavy beams stood out from the ceiling overhead, and projected like a low, narrow bench around the sides. The floors were made of stout plank, with a trap-door leading to the cellar. A line of shelves in the kitchen, called *the dresser*, often displaying a superb row of burnished pewter, performed the office of side-table and closet. The best apartment was used for a sleeping-room, and even the kitchen was often furnished with a bed. The ceilings were low, and the fire-place, running deep into the chimney, gaped like an open cavern. But when the heaped-up logs presented a front of glowing coals and upward-rushing flame, while storms were raging without, or the heavy snow obliterated the landscape, such a fountain of warmth not only quickened the blood, but cheered the heart, inspired gratitude, and promoted social festivity. Such scenes have made the fireside an expressive type of domestic happiness. There is certainly a charm in the very phrase, *old-fashioned comforts*.

Yet these large fire-places were not without their disadvantages. They required a constant current of air from without to force the smoke up the chimney, and this kept the room cold. They were often made eight feet wide, and two or three feet deep. Wood was cut four feet in length, and the rolling in of a log was a ponderous operation that made all the timbers creak and crushed the bed of burning coals upon the hearth into cinders. Even if wood were as abundant as formerly, we should still be compelled to acknowledge that the reduction of fire-places and the introduction of other modes of warming rooms, are great improvements of modern house-keeping, promoting at once comfort, economy, and symmetry.

Norwich, in its beginning, was a step in advance of most settlements. The people had built their first habitations at Saybrook, or elsewhere, and on this chosen spot, at the outset, laid firm their foundations and furnished themselves with respectable homes. No record or tradition favors the notion that huts or log-houses preceded the spacious and comfortable houses of the first proprietors. The builders must have had some temporary shelter, of booth or wigwam, but it is probable that in most instances families were not removed until the houses were at least framed.

Towns were not built in those days like a factory-village, all at once and after one model. At Norwich, especially, if considered in its whole extent, great diversity in the form and position of the buildings was displayed. Here a house stood directly on the town street; another was



placed at the end of a lane; a third, in a meadow by a gurgling brook; and others were scattered over side-hills, or sheltered under jutting ledges of rock. Some were only of one story, with two rooms; but the better sort presented a wide, imposing front of two stories, ending in a very low story in the rear. Two large rooms, often twenty feet square, viz., a *great room*, as it was called, but meaning a *best* or *company* room, and a kitchen, with a bed-room, and a capacious milk and cheese pantry, usually covered the ground-floor. The windows were small and few, most of them furnished with panes of diamond glass, cased in lead.\* The rooms were supplied with chimney-closets, both over the fire-places and by their sides. In the chambers, and sometimes even in the garret, large closets might be seen diving here and there into the chimney, or occupying the space between the chimneys. Occasionally one has been found having a winding course around the chimney, or a turn in it like a corner; others have had the door inconspicuous, suggesting the idea that they were made for places of concealment. As the houses decayed, these closets became receptacles for rubbish and vermin. Often in later times, the wrecks of discarded furniture, old snow-shoes and wooden-clods, moth-eaten buff-caps, broken utensils, and sometimes books and pamphlets, or written papers, discolored, tattered, nibbled, till they were worthless, have been dragged from these dusty reservoirs.

Among articles of furniture distinctively belonging to old times, we may notice the high chest of drawers, reaching nearly from floor to ceiling, and its multitude of drawers graded in size from a button-box almost to a trunk.

Whether any of the first settlers owned a clock or watch, is unknown. Perhaps Mr. Fitch or Major Mason had this convenience; but in general, the only time-pieces must have been the universal noon-mark in the window, and the dial in the garden,—both useless when the sun was obscured. After a time, as wealth increased, the great house-clock, with its radiant, moon-like face, made its appearance in a few houses. In the kitchen, the high wooden settle was never absent,—now used as a screen, and now receding to the wall, to give full exhibition to that grand receptacle of cheering coals and flame, the wide-mouthed-fire-place.

The kitchen was the principal sitting-room of the family. Blocks in the chimney-corners were used for children's seats; the settle kept off the air from the door; a tin candlestick, with a long back, was suspended on a nail over the matel, and the walls were adorned with crook-necks, flitches of bacon and venison, raccoon and fox skins, and immense lobster claws. Afterwards, as fears of the Indians died away, and weapons of warfare were less used, occasionally a musket or an esponton might be

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\* As late as the year 1810, windows of this kind were remaining in the old Post house.



seen suspended transverse from beam to beam, and bearing as trophies, reserved for winter use, strings of dried apples, chains of sausages, and bunches of red peppers. A small open recess for books was usually seen on one side of the fire-place, a little below the ceiling, where even the cleanest volumes soon acquired a dingy hue. Venerated were these books, for they came from the fatherland, and were mostly of that blessed Puritan stamp whose truths had inspired the owners with courage to leave the scenes of their nativity, to find a home in this distant and savage land. This little recess, displaying its few books, often appears in the background of ancient portraits; for example, in that of Col. Dyer, of Windham, formerly among the pictures in the Wyllis mansion at Hartford.

In these houses the Family Bible was never wanting. It occupied a conspicuous station upon the desk or best table, and though much used, was well preserved. It came from *home*, for so the colonists loved to call the mother country; it had voyaged with them over the billowy waters, and was revered as the gift of Heaven. One of these blessed volumes, long preserved as a precious relic in the Lathrop family, and now deposited in the archives of the American Bible Society, merits a particular notice. It is in the old English text, and of that edition usually called Parker's, or the Bishop's Bible. It was preserved in the family of Mr. Azariah Lathrop, grandson of the second Samuel Lathrop of Norwich, with the tradition that it was brought from England by an ancestor, who, reading one night in his berth, fell asleep over the book, when a spark escaped from his lamp, and falling upon the leaf, ate its way slowly through a large number of pages, committing sad havoc in the sacred text. The owner afterwards with great neatness and patience repaired the ravage with his pen, restoring the text to each of the inspired leaves, as may be seen by inspecting the venerable relic.

The Rev. John Lathrop of Barnstable, Mass., a devout lover of the Sacred Book, was the emigrant ancestor of the Lathrop family: to him, therefore, the above incident may with some probability be referred. But the volume is found among the descendants of his son Samuel, the ancestor of the Norwich Lathrops, and the latter, though only a lad at the time of his emigration, may nevertheless have been the sleeping student who came so near to the losing of his treasure. All that can be asserted on this subject is, that the repaired Bible, with this interesting tradition connected with it, comes down to the present generation in the line of Mr. Azariah Lathrop.

There is no account that the planters ever experienced any scarcity of food, or were ever deprived at any time of the real comforts of life. On the contrary, they seem to have had abundant harvests, and to have been generous livers. Though their modes of cooking were more simple than

those now in vogue, the variety of sustenance was nearly as great. To obviate the necessity of going often to mill, pounded maize, called by the Indians *samp*, or *nasaump*, which resembles *hominy*, was much used. Hasty-pudding was a common dish, the usual supper of children. Out of New England this article was called *mush* and *suppawn*. The coarse meal of those days required at least an hour's cooking to make the pudding good; the name *hasty* is therefore entirely inappropriate, the special pleading of Barlow to the contrary notwithstanding:

“In *haste* the boiling cauldron, o’er the blaze,  
Receives and cooks the ready-powdered maize.”

A true hasty-pudding, that is, one which can be properly made in a short time to meet a sudden emergency, requires a different grain from maize. The minute-pudding, so called, made of rye or buckwheat, is of this kind, justifying its name by the haste with which it can be prepared.

Another dish which the Indians taught the English to make, was *succatash*, a mixture of tender Indian corn and new beans, forming a delicious compound, still a great favorite all over New England. They also learned of the natives to bake corn-cakes on the hot hearth, under the ashes, forming a sweet and wholesome bannock; and to pound their parched corn and eat it with milk or molasses. This was called in their language, *Yo-ké-ug*.\* The first planters were also famous for baked beans and boiled Indian puddings,—dishes that have been perpetuated by their descendants, with considerable spirit and pertinacity, though they have ceased to be peculiarly characteristic of the place.† The beans were put into the oven early in the morning, crowned with a choice portion from the pork-barrel, and having been kept all day seething and browning, appeared upon the supper-table, hot and juicy, and with their respectable accompaniment, the slashed and crispy pork, gave dignity to the best tables. This was the universal Saturday night treat; so that wits would say the inhabitants knew when Sunday was coming only by the previous dish of baked beans; and that if the usual baking should at any time be omitted, the ovens would fall in. There can be no doubt that the name *Bean Hill* was bestowed on a part of the town-plot from the prevalence of this Saturday night treat. Bean-porridge was also, in those early days, a common breakfast dish.

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\* Nokchick, in the idiom of some tribes.

“Nokehick, parched meal, which is a readie wholesome food.” (Roger Williams.)  
The English sometimes called it No-cake.

† It has been said that baked beans is not an old English dish, yet from its prevalence in Norwich and some other places, so soon after the settlement, we should naturally infer that the emigrants brought with them their relish for this dainty of the table. They certainly did not find it among the Indians.



In other places, peas were more generally cultivated than beans. In a list of the principal productions of the Colony, made out in 1680, peas are mentioned, but not beans. Perhaps the inhabitants of Norwich were particularly prominent in bringing the latter into common use, and hence arose their local renown in connection with them. The beans and puddings of Norwich were, however, only a popular way of representing tables bountifully supplied with substantial food.

With respect to the *puddings*, it is reported that they were frequently made of such size and solidity as to carry ruin in their path if the pyramid chanced to fall.\* An extra-good housewife would put her pudding in the bag at night, and keep it boiling until dinner-time the next day. The carving commenced at the top, and as the pile lowered to the center, the color deepened to a delicious red. One can not help being curious to know whether these local customs could be traced back to those parts of England from which the planters came.

Potatoes were then unknown in the country, and not introduced until after 1720. Turnips were a common vegetable. Pumpkins were so abundant in New England, that wits seized upon them as a symbol of the country. A chubby boy astride of a large pumpkin, and blowing the hollow stalk of the vine for a trumpet, is at least an emblem of some significance. Pumpkin johnny-cake, made of corn-meal and stewed pumpkin, baked before the fire upon the trencher, and turned to give a brittle crust to both sides, was an article for the table in high estimation.

The drink of our ancestors consisted chiefly of pure water from the well or fountain; but they had also beer, cider, and metheglin, and they made great account of syrups concocted from the juice of berries, and cordials distilled from mints.

In addition to the flesh afforded by the flocks and herds which they fed, the bounty of Providence furnished them with rich supplies. Deer at the time of the settlement were not infrequent; wild fowl, especially pigeons, were at the proper season very abundant; all the smaller game, such as squirrels, foxes, woodchucks, and rabbits, might be caught in snares at the very doors of the houses, and the rivers and brooks around them furnished

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\* A sportive story was formerly current, that on a certain festive occasion, a conical pudding was set in the center of the table, in monumental dignity, but losing its balance at the first insertion of the carving-knife, it fell and knocked down *three men*. Whereupon the townsmen made a regulation that no pudding should henceforth consist of more than *twenty coombs* of corn, that is, about four bushels.

The Norwich *puddings* were played by the local humorists against the New London *dumplings*. The latter, it is said, were often made so large and hard that it was necessary to chip them up with a pick-axe. The remains of a great dinner being at one time thrown into the river, near the town, the Isle of Rocks, a noted fishing ledge in the harbor, was formed, and is still by some of their neighbors called the New London Dumplings.

first-rate bass, innumerable shad, fine lobsters, delicate oysters, and highly-prized trout. Such were the dainties spread upon their board.

The annual Fast was kept with great strictness : no food being allowed between sunrise and sunset. Thanksgiving was then, and has ever since been, the great festal day of the year,—the day for family gatherings and heart-greetings ; for the noonday feast, and the evening spent in eating nuts and apples, telling stories, and playing blind-man's-buff,—simple elements of pleasure, but great in their productive result. These two memorial seasons have been called the saint-days of New England, or, as expressed by a domestic humorist, the festivals of *St. Stuff* and *St. Starve*.

*Names.* Our ancestors displayed but little taste in the way of names-giving, either to persons or places. The Christian names bestowed upon sons and daughters were often quaint and whimsical, sometimes even harsh in sound and inconvenient of utterance. Shadrach, Jephthah, Abinadab, Aquilla, and Zorobabel, are to be met with upon the records. Others were chosen from some implied principle of association, in defiance of all fitness ; such as Consider, Friend, Preserved, Retrieve, Yet-once. But these are the extremes in this line, and none more ungainly, such as are often and perhaps falsely attributed to the old Puritans, are found in our Connecticut registries.

Female names of a descriptive class were very common, such as Thankful, Mindwell, Patience, Experience, Temperance, Obedience, Remembrance, Deliverance, Desire, Submit, Faith, Hope, Love, Charity, Silence, Mercy. Many of these, however, far from being uncouth, are euphonious and appropriate, worthy of perpetual repetition.

Many local names that were current in the early stages of the settlement, have become obsolete. Such are—

Connecticut Plains,—a tract within the bounds of the nine-miles-square, on what was then called *the path to Connecticut*, that is, the old road to Hartford.

Little Lebanon,—at the end of Yantick, or just beyond Yantick. Little Lebanon Hill and Valley, mentioned 1673, before the settlement of the present town of Lebanon.

New Roxbury,—now Woodstock.

Nicholas Hill,—south of the Yantic, since called Nick's Hill.

Little Faith Plain,—south of Wawekus Hill.

The first names given to a new country are usually descriptive, embodying some prominent characteristic that shall bring the place directly before the mind. Thus we find on the early records of Norwich—

The Crotch of the Rivers.

The Hook of the Quinabaug.

Hammer Brook.

Stony Brook.



Kimicall [Chemical] Spring,—in a grant to Capt. Fitch, 1687.

The White Rock upon Plain Hill,—a land-mark.

Scotch Cap Hill,—near the point where the present bounds of Norwich, Franklin and Bozrah meet.

Huckleberry Plains.

Great Beaver Brook.

Ising-glass Rock.

Little Beaver Brook.

Wheel-timber Hill.

Wolf-pit Hill.

Hearth-stone Hill.

Saw-pit Hills.

Butternut Brook.

Great Cranberry Pond.

Stonie Hollow, (now East Chelsea.)

Clay Banks of the Great River.

The Great Darke Swampe.

Dragon's Hole at Kewoutaquuck.

The Rocky Hill, called Wenaniasoug.

If any dependence can be placed on names and traditions, the Indians had at least three rude forts within the present bounds of Norwich. One at the Landing on the brow of the hill, which on this account was called at the first settlement, Fort Hill. This was probably the citadel of Waweequaw, the brother of Uncas. Another, upon Little Fort Hill, between the Landing and Trading Cove, belonging to Uncas himself. And a third, more ancient than either of these, on the south-western side of the Yantic, below the junction of Hammer-brook. This stood upon a rugged platform of rock, surrounded and overshadowed with woods. It was a barren and secluded spot; but the tradition has been current, particularly among the Hydes and Posts, who first owned the spot, that here was an ancient Indian fortress. It consisted of a high stone wall, inclosing an area upon the brow of the hill, and must have been designed only as a hiding-place, to which to retreat in times of invasion. The stones had been broken by the Indian builders into portable size, and about the year 1790, were removed and used in the building of a cellar and for other purposes by the owner of the land.

## CHAPTER VI.

### EARLIEST TOWN OFFICERS. COURTS. TRAIN-BANDS. MAGISTRATES AND SCHOOLS.

ACCORDING to the best writers on New England polity, the four important institutions that lie at the foundation of our prosperity are the towns, congregations, schools, and militia. Upon these as a basis, communities spring rapidly into thrift and importance, and become the pillars of nations. The first of these institutions in order, and that which embodies the first element of a commonwealth, is the township. Formerly, in Connecticut, this included also the second branch, the parish, or congregation, which was co-extensive with the town, and the minister not only the religious head, but the political counsellor, of the people. The schools were quiet and insignificant, partly domestic and partly municipal. The train-bands, on the contrary, were indispensable and efficient, being the town itself, in its wisdom and strength, armed for defence.

The Connecticut Constitution, the oldest of the American State Constitutions, makes no allusion to the king.\* It regards the people as the only source of power; deputies represent the will of the people; towns select the deputies and empower them to act in their behalf. Towns are older than states, and the fountains of political power.

Townships are therefore the foundation-stones of American liberty: accepted inhabitants are identical with free citizens, and municipal independence opens the way to all other liberal institutions.

The earliest town records of Norwich are in the hand-writing of John Birchard, who had probably been the Town Clerk at Saybrook, before the removal. He discharged the duties of a Clerk or Recorder at Norwich, for fifteen or eighteen years, but there is no memorandum extant of his appointment to office. No town action remains of an earlier date than Dec. 11, 1660, but from the fragmentary state of the oldest book, we may infer that several pages in the beginning have been worn away and lost.

The original grants were evidently not recorded, until reviewed and

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\* See Constitution of 1639: Conn. Col. Rec., 1, 20-25. Also Code of Laws, *ibid.*, 509.



rectified by later surveys, and these, with subsequent grants and divisions of common land, were registered by Captain James Fitch.

The affairs both of the town and society, civil and ecclesiastical, were all recorded together, until the year 1720. The volumes are labeled, Town Books of Acts, Votes, Grants, &c. They contain also an account of the freemen, strays, cattle-marks, lost goods, and occasionally a record of a justice's court. Afterwards the town and society affairs were separated, and the latter kept by themselves in a volume entitled "The Town-Plot Society Records." In the first books, dates are confounded and subjects intermixed with a strange degree of negligence. Some of the records seem to have been made promiscuously, with the book upside down, or upright, as it happened; and forward or backward, wherever there was a blank space. The earliest notices relate to the granting of lands, appointing fence-viewers, erecting public pounds, gates and fences, *stating* highways, felling trees, and regulating the running at large of swine, rams, and other domestic animals. These were the first subjects of legislation, and the first officers were a constable and two townsmen, one for each end of the town. The townsmen were afterwards called overseers, and select-men, and varied in number, though seldom more than four were chosen. It was their business (according to a town vote in 1683,) "to order the prudentials of the town, and see to it that the wholesome town orders be attended to." They were empowered to call public meetings, to take cognizance of all offences against law, order, and morality; to settle differences, and try cases of small value.

The imperfection of the early records leaves us without a complete list of early town officers. The following are all that have been recovered for the first twenty-five years of the settlement. Later than this, the officers for each year are, with rare exceptions, extant.

## CONSTABLES.

1669. Robert Allyn.	1682. Samuel Lothrop.
1670. Ensign Thomas Tracy.	Joshua Abel.
1671. Thomas Post.	1683. Thomas Bingham.
1673. Samuel Lothrop.	Josiah Reed.
1674. John Gager.	1684. Caleb Abel.
1675. Simon Huntington.	Christopher Huntington, Jr., east of
1678. John Baldwin, Sen.	Showtucket.
Thomas Leffingwell, Jr.	Thomas Tracy, Jr.
1679. John Calkins.	1685. Joseph Bushnell.
Richard Bushnell.	Simon Huntington.
1680. Richard Edgerton.	Caleb Forbes.
Thomas Sluman.	1686. Stephen Gifford.
1681. Solomon Tracy.	John Calkins, Sen.
Stephen Merrick.	Thomas Parke, Jr.

## TOWNSMEN.

1669.	Thomas Leffingwell. Christopher Huntington.	1680.	Capt. Fitch. Lefft. Thomas Tracy. Lefft. Leffingwell. Ensign Backus. Thomas Adgate.
1671.	John Bradford. John Calkins.	1681.	Simon Huntington. Thomas Waterman. John Tracy.
1672.	Hugh Calkins. Simon Huntington.	1682.	Ensign William Backus. Caleb Abel. Lefft. Leffingwell. Thomas Adgate.
1673.	William Hide. John Holmsted.	1683.	John Baldwin, Sen. Thomas Tracy.
1674.	John Post. Thomas Adgate.	1684.	Ensign Backus. Sergt. Waterman. Lefft. Leffingwell. Thomas Adgate.
1675.	Thomas Waterman. John Calkins.	1685.	Sergt. John Tracy. Stephen Merrick. Solomon Tracy. Samuel Lothrop.
1676.	East End, Thomas Adgate. West End, Thomas Bingham.	1686.	Lefft. Leffingwell. Thomas Adgate. Ensign Backus. John Post.
1677.	John Holmstead. Lefft. Th. Leffingwell.		
1678.	Simon Huntington. Richard Edgerton.		
1679.	Six Townsmen chosen : James Fitch, Jr. Lefft. Leffingwell. Ensign Backus. Simon Huntington. John Post. Thomas Adgate.		

In October, 1661, the first deputies of the town, Thomas Leffingwell and Thomas Tracy, appear on the roll of the General Court at Hartford. There was but little fluctuation in the higher public offices at that period. A candidate once chosen and found to be competent and faithful, was generally a life-long incumbent. The election of deputies was semi-annual, but for the first eleven years, the choice, with only two exceptions, was restricted to four persons :

Thomas Tracy.  
Thomas Leffingwell.  
Hugh Calkins.  
Francis Griswold.

The exceptions were Mr. Benjamin Brewster, chosen for one session in 1668 ; and John Mason, one in 1672.

Afterwards other proprietary names appear among the representatives, but the perpetuity of the office continued. Richard Bushnell, beginning at 1691, was chosen for 37 sessions ; Solomon Tracy for 19 ; and Joseph Backus for 34, beginning at 1704 and ending in 1733.



In the list of estates in 1663, Norwich was estimated at £2,571. Saybrook at the same time was valued at £8,000, and New London at £7,185. This was before the union with New Haven, when Connecticut comprised only eleven towns or plantations.\* Of these, Norwich was the lowest on the list. By the union under the charter in 1665, and the addition of two or three new settlements, the towns in the Colony increased, during the next twelve years, to twenty-three; of these, Norwich was about the fifteenth in valuation, reporting in 1676, persons 71, estates £4,598. Before 1688, the towns increased to twenty-six, and Norwich advanced to the ninth position, returning over 100 polls and upwards of £7,000 in estates. Those higher upon the list, in the order of valuation, were Hartford, New Haven, Windsor, Wethersfield, Fairfield, New London, Windsor, Stratford.

In 1676, the best house-lots in New London and Norwich went into the list at 25s. per acre, the poorer quality at 20s., and other fenced lands at 1s. In Saybrook and Stonington, none were estimated above 20s. per acre. This was also the highest estimate at New Haven, but at Hartford and Wethersfield the home-lots were listed at 40s. per acre.

Houses were not reckoned in the valuation of estates; being "so chargeable to maintain," that they were exempted from taxation. Horses, four years old and upward, in 1665, were reckoned at £10, but in 1670, at £4.

In 1680, the Lords of the Council of Trade, in England, proposed certain queries to the General Court of Connecticut, respecting the state of the Colony. In the answers to these questions, an allusion incidentally made to Norwich was perhaps the first public notice sent across the ocean that such a town had been established. In speaking of New London and Pequot river, the document says:

"A ship of 500 tunns may go up to the Towne, and come so near the shore that they may toss a biskit ashore: and vessells of about 30 tunns may pass up about 12 mile above New London, to or neer a town called Norwich."†

The number of towns in the Colony at this period was 26; the number of men, 2,507; in Norwich, 85.

In a roll of freemen of the Colony, recorded in 1669, Norwich has 25, viz.:

Thomas Adgate.	Richard Edgerton.	Thomas Leffingwell.
William Backus.	John Elderkin.	Major John Mason.
John Baulden.	Mr. James Fitch.	John Post.
John Birchard.	Francis Griswell.	Thomas Post.

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\* The word *Plantation* was nearly synonymous with *town*,—not always meaning distinctively a *new town*. To obtain the privileges of a plantation, was equivalent to incorporation as a town.

† Conn. Col. Rec., 3, 297.

Morgan Bowers.	William Hide.	John Renolds.
Benjamin Bruister.	John Holmstead.	Jonathan Roice.
Hugh Calkins.	Christopher Huntington.	Nehemiah Smyth.
John Calkins.	Simon Huntington.	Thomas Tracey.
		Robert Wade.

Taken by us whose names are underwritten this 9th of October, '69.

JOHN BAULDEN,  
JOHN RENOLD, *Townsmen.*  
JONATHAN ROICE, *Constable.\**

It is probable that the name of Thomas Bliss was accidentally omitted from this list, as he was one of those that had been propounded and accepted by the General Court, in 1664.

In 1681, eight other freemen were added to the list:

Hugh Amos.	Thomas Howard.	John Tracy.
Thomas Bingham.	Thomas Leffinewell, Jr.	Thomas Waterman †
Stephen Gifford.	John Mason.	

In 1685,—

Samuel Bliss.	Samuel Lothrop, Jr.
Joseph Bushnell.	Solomon Tracy.

In 1662, Thomas Tracy, Thomas Adgate and Francis Griswold were chosen, with the townsmen, to try all cases to the value of 40s. These formed a Court of Commission.

In 1669, John Bradford, Simon Huntington and Thomas Leffingwell were the Commissioners, with William Backus acting as marshall.

In 1671, Ensign Thomas Tracy, Serg. Thomas Leffingwell and Hugh Calkins held the office. These were all appointed by the town.

The first Commissioner or Justice appointed by the General Court for the town was Ensign John Mason, 1672.

In 1676, John Birchard.

In 1678, James Fitch and Thomas Tracy.

In 1686, Benjamin Brewster. The next year Mr. Brewster was commissioned both for Norwich and New London, and in 1689, for Preston also.

Cases of over 40s. value, and all weighty matters, were carried before a special court, called a Court of Assistants, where a magistrate or assistant presided. Several Courts of Assistants were held in New London, at which Major Mason, with others of the magistrates, Wyllis, Wolcott, or Governor Leete, presided. These courts were subsequently merged in the County Court.

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\* Col. Rec. Conn., 2, 523.

† Ibid., 2, 154.



Counties were constituted in 1666. New London County extended from Pawcatuck river "to the western bounds of Hammonasset plantation," comprising the four towns of Saybrook, New London, Stonington, and Norwich, with the new settlement at Hammonasset or Killingworth. New London was the shire town. The first County Court was held June 6, 1666. Major Mason presided, assisted by John Allyn, Assistant; Thomas Stanton and Obadiah Bruen, Commissioners.

Major Mason continued to preside at the sessions of this court until September, 1670, when he appeared for the last time on the bench.

The first Clerks of the County Court were Obadiah Bruen, Edward Palmes, and Daniel Wetherell, all of New London, and in office successively, each about two years. In 1673, John Birchard of Norwich was appointed Clerk of the Court, and held the office for eight or ten years.

Frequent courts, either of higher or lower grade, were an imperious necessity of the times. It was a litigious age. The early settlers were fond of appealing to the laws, and settling their disputes by writs, pleas, and judicial forms. A case in court was, with some men, little more than a customary part of the year's business. When the county consisted of only five or six towns, frequently the list of cases for debt, trespass, disorderly conduct, and breach of law, amounted to forty or fifty at a single session of the court.

In several instances, however, wherein Norwich as a town appears on the docket, the cases were such as show the prevalence of law and order in the community, rather than a fondness for litigation. Such are the following:

In 1671, the grand jury made a presentment of John Pease for living alone and neglecting the Sabbath.

In 1680, an action was brought by Frederick Ellis against the townsmen for warning him out of the town after he had been made an inhabitant by grant and possession of lands; and also against Christopher Huntington, the Clerk, for refusing him a record of said lands. He was nonsuited in the first case; but in answer to the complaint against the clerk, the court ordered that Ellis should have a record of the land.

Prosecutions for slander, profanity, speaking evil of dignities, and other cases for which an unbridled tongue was answerable, were more frequent in the young, half-established communities of that period, than at the present day. An instance will be given for illustration, which has an additional interest from its connection with one who was then *the great man of the nine-miles-square*. With the exception, however, of this case, *Mason vs. Richardson*, the first band of Norwich proprietors furnished but little business for the courts,—preferring, it would seem, to settle the common cases of debt and trespass in a private way, or before a justice of the peace.

At a County Court held in New London, June 6, 1671: John Allyn, presiding Judge, a case was brought by "Major Mason, plaintiff, contra Amos Richardson, defendant, in an action of slander and defamation for saying he was a traytor and [had] damnified the Collonie one thousand pounds." The damages were laid at £500. The jury found for the plaintiff one hundred pounds, and costs of court, £1 8s. The defendant applied for a review, which was granted, and the case being called up at the next September court, was respited and not brought before the Bench again till June, 1672.

In the meantime the original plaintiff, Major Mason, had been removed by death; and when the appellant, Richardson, was summoned by the court either to withdraw his action or go on with his review, he replied that Major John Mason, who was the first plaintiff, is now deceased, and that he conceives the action dies with him." Samuel and John Mason, sons of the Major, appeared in court and tendered to defend the action, but still the plaintiff replied that he had nothing further to say than what was contained in the papers on file. The action was therefore dropped, and the judgment against the plaintiff remained in force.

At the same court, when the proceedings in this case were read, Mr. Richardson disputed the record. He was thereupon arraigned for defaming the court by saying that a part of its record was not true, and fined in the sum of eight pounds.

Execution to satisfy the original judgment was subsequently levied by the heirs of Mason upon the estate of Richardson, and twelve mares taken, for which only £71 being allowed, and the plaintiff claiming that they were worth much more, further litigation ensued before the matter was finally settled.

The first notice of a military organization in the town is from the Records of the General Court:

Oct. '66. Francis Griswold is confirmed Lt. to ye Traine band at Norridge and Thomas Tracy to be Ensigne.

June 1672. This Court confirms Mr. John Mason, Lieutenant, and Thomas Leffingwell, Ensigne of the Traine Band of Norwich.

These were the first militia officers. John Mason was the second son of the Major, and son-in-law of the Rev. Mr. Fitch. Though but a young man, he was already in the commission of the peace, and was this year chosen an Assistant.

In August, 1673, upon some hostile manifestations from the Dutch of New York, the militia or train-bands of Connecticut were ordered to be ready for service, and 500 dragoons raised, who were to be prepared to march at an hour's warning, to defend any place in the colony. Of these dragoons, New London County was to raise a company of one hundred:



James Avery of New London, Captain; Thomas Tracy of Norwich, Lieutenant; John Denison of Stonington, Ensign. The number of privates apportioned to Norwich was 17. Saybrook had the same number; New London 26, and Stonington 19.\* Later in the same year, Benjamin Brewster was appointed Lieutenant of this troop; Daniel Mason, Quartermaster; and Lieut. Tracy, Muster-master, or inspector of arms and ammunition.

According to the laws of the colony, a train-band of thirty-two persons was entitled to a Lieutenant, Ensign, and two Sergeants; but no Captain was allowed until the band numbered sixty-four privates. John Mason was the first person in the town who attained the rank of Captain. He was commissioned during Philip's war, Sept. 15, 1675,† received a severe wound shortly afterward in the attack upon Narragansett fort, and died the next year.

Thomas Leffingwell held a Lieutenant's commission in 1676, and performed active service against the Indians, but did not succeed to the captaincy. The highest civil officer, assistant or magistrate of the town, probably had a prior claim, as in May, 1680, James Fitch was confirmed Captain of the Norwich train-band, Thomas Leffingwell Lieutenant, and William Backus Ensign.‡

The predilection for military titles was a trait of our worthy ancestors, which it is not easy to reconcile with their Puritan origin and peaceful pursuits. It is rare to find upon the early records a military officer mentioned above the rank of corporal, without the adjunct of his title. They plumed themselves upon an office in the train-bands, as a token of distinguished rank and honor.§

Major Mason had been elected Deputy Governor of the Colony in May, 1660. His connection with the settlement of Norwich, and his residence in the place, gave dignity and respectability to the young town. Many people resorted thither for the transaction of public business.

Thomas Minor, in a MS. diary preserved by his descendants, records, June 18, 1664:

“Ould Cheesbrough was going to Norwig to sorender the Towne to Coneticut.”

That is, transfer the jurisdiction of Stonington, or Southerton, as it was then called, from the Bay State, under which it had been comprehended, to the Colony of Connecticut, of which Mason was then the acting Governor.

\* Conn. Col. Rec., 2, 207.

† Ibid., 2, 366.

‡ Ibid., 3, 60.

§ Civil titles also were ceremoniously observed. An assistant, or magistrate, was addressed as *the worshipful*.

Again he writes, Sept. 8, 1667:

"We wer at Norwhich, the Commission wer there."

Referring, probably, to the Court of Commissioners, where a magistrate usually presided. While Major Mason lived, there was no other magistrate in New London County, and he generally held his courts at home. But during several of the last years of his life, he was subject to attacks of a painful disease that often disabled him from attending to public affairs. This caused some inconvenience, and led to murmurings and complaints, particularly at New London, where there was more trade and bustle, more of a populace, and a louder call for courts and pleas, than in any other place in the colony. It was onerous and irritating to this stirring community, to be dependent upon Norwich, the staid and somewhat frowning younger sister, for justice and arbitrament. In October, 1669, Mr. Wetherell of New London, Clerk of the County Court, in behalf of the Commissioners, petitioned the General Court for relief in this particular, and obtained an order for an assistant or magistrate to hold a court at stated times in New London.\*

After the death of Major Mason, New London County had no chief magistrate or presiding judge resident within its bounds, till May, 1674, when the following appointment is recorded:

"Major Edward Palmes is invested with magistratical power, throughout New London County and the Narragansett country."†

Major Palmes was of New London County, and Norwich in her turn found it irksome to go to her neighbor for award and decree. Between these sister townships there seems to have been little similarity of taste, and no fusion of purpose and action.

When two communities are situated near to each other, and possess nearly equal claims to patronage and favor,—especially if they lie upon the same river and expect to draw their prosperity from similar pursuits,—occasional outbreaks of jealousy and rivalry invariably make their appearance. The rivalry between New London and Norwich, however, though it arose early and has never entirely disappeared, has generally exhausted itself in sportive sarcasms or a few passionate invectives, stopping short of aggressive deeds. It has been restricted to public matters

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\* The petitioner states that Major Mason, "by God's visiting hand upon him in respect of weakness and sickness of body, hath not at all times been in a capacity to undergo the great trouble that attends our courts," and further observes, "Our matters many times require able help in respect of the often recourse of merchants and strangers by reason of the convenience of our harbor here."

Conn. Col. Rec., 2, 115.

† Ibid., 2, 231.



and objects of pecuniary concern, never interfering with the cultivation of social intercourse, the establishment of warm friendships, the alliance of families, and a hearty, prompt and efficient assistance in seasons of calamity and danger.

On festive occasions particularly, the inhabitants of the two townships were accustomed from the earliest times to unite with the utmost cordiality and sympathy. Concerted parties would turn out from both places, on horseback, and in all kinds of vehicles as they successsively served the generations, and meet half-way, at Massapeag, or Indian hill, or Cohegun rock, or some other part of Mohegan, to roast oysters, hunt squirrels, or witness the Indian dance; in spring, to gather strawberries; in autumn, wild plums; and in winter, upon sleds or sleighs to have a great supper at Bradford's, or Haughton's, or some other half-way house.\*

Nor has the jealousy between the two places ever been so patent, nor the exasperation so bitter, as has been sometimes exhibited by different sections of either town toward each other; between Chelsea society and the Town-plot, for instance, which have had seasons of convulsive enmity so violent as to make reconciliation seemingly impossible, but which have commonly terminated in greater harmony and complacency than before.

These prefatory remarks are designed to introduce the wary, caustic, and somewhat plaintive petition sent from Norwich to the Legislature, in October, 1674, praying to be freed from their connection with New London County. It was a burden to which they had hitherto been submissive:

“But upon many yeares experience it hath proved so afflicting to us that wee cannot but desire to bee free from this County and come under Hartford County, if it may be. Many reasons we could give, but we fear it will not be expedient for us to mention them; onely this wee must crave liberty to say, that hitherto our relation to London County hath bene an oppression unto us, wee bearing the burthen of others contentions, w'ch now seeme to be rather of an increasing nature than otherwise.”

They further intimate that several other plantations in the county “doe sigh under the same burden and desire the like reliefe.” Signed by William Hide and John Holmstead, “Select men in the name and with the consent of the town.”†

This petition was not placed on record. The Legislature wisely postponed the consideration of the subject to the next May, and it does not appear to have been afterwards revived.

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\* These rural excursions to which our ancestors were so partial, were of a jubilant, exhilarating nature, especially those which took place in the genial seasons. Men and women on horses of every grade, some with pillions riding double, crowding together, filled the air with echoës, often shouting rapturously and singing on their way. Our modern pic nics fail to reproduce the joyous inspiration and healthful flush of those old festivities.

† Conn. Col. Rec., 2, 247.

By the early laws of the colony, it was ordered that every town containing thirty families should maintain a school to teach reading and writing, and that a *Latin School* should be established in every county town. A grant of six hundred acres of land was made to each county, to assist in establishing this Latin School. These regulations were not always observed; the new settlements were tardy in their educational concerns. The earliest schools were taught principally by females, who advanced their pupils but little beyond reading, spelling, and learning the catechism. The New England Primer, containing the Westminster Catechism, was the universal class-book of the children. This was first published about 1660.

In 1678, the County Court took the condition of the schools into consideration, and appointed a committee to see what could be done towards settling a Latin school at New London.

Members of the Committee,—

Major Edward Palmes, for New London.

Mr. James Fitch, Jr., for Norwich.

Mr. Samuel Mason, for Stonington.

Capt. Robert Chapman, for Saybrook.

Ensign Joseph Peck, for Lyme.

Mr. Edward Griswold, for Killingworth.

Several years elapsed before the county grant was disposed of and a Latin school established, but the agitation of the subject seems to have aroused the towns to the importance of maintaining each a common school of its own.

In Norwich, no schoolmaster is mentioned before 1677, when John Birchard occupied the teacher's chair, and was engaged to keep nine months of the year for £25, provision pay. The next item recorded is the following:

March 31, 1679. It is agreed and voated by the town that Mr. Danill Mason shall be improved as a school-master for the towne for nine months in the yeare ensuing and to allow him twenty-five pounds to be payed partly by the children, . . . . and each child that is entered for the full time to pay nine shillings and other children that come occasionally to allow three pence the week; the rest to be payed by the Towne.

July 28, 1680, a special meeting was called to deliberate respecting the establishment of a town school, and the whole matter committed to the charge of the Selectmen, with injunctions that they should see—

“1st, that parents send their children; 2d, that they pay their proportion, according to what is judged just; 3d, that they take care parents be not oppressed, espeshally such who are disabled; 4th, that whatever is additionally necessary for the perfecting the maintnance of a school-master, is a charge and expense belonging to all the inhabitants of the town, and to be gathered as any other rates; 5th, whatever else is necessary to a prudent carrying through this occation, is committed to the discreshon of ye sd select men.”



Public works in those days were slow in progress, more from the want of hands to labor, than from deficiency of skill or the absence of enterprise. A school-house, for which appropriations had been made in 1680, was finally built in 1683, by John Hough and Samuel Roberts. These men were both from New London, but found employment in Norwich, as house-builders, and about this period became residents of the town.

1680, July 21. Mr. Arnold accepted as an inhabitant: the Select men to provide him with 4 or 5 acres of land as convenient as may be.

Mr. John Arnold was a school-master, and probably exercised his calling for several years in Norwich, although the records do not advert to him in that capacity. An allusion occurs to "Mr. John Arnold, merchant," who was doubtless the same person, as a variety of occupations, in a small way, were often pursued by one man in those days.

Mr. Arnold afterwards removed to Windham, where his name is found on the list of the first twenty-two inhabitants, May, 1693. He settled in that part of the town which is now Mansfield, and the records of the place show that he had been master of a school in several different towns, and had children born at Newark, Killingworth, Norwich, and Windham.\*

Schools in our early settlements were only kept a certain part of the year, varying from two to eight or nine months. In 1690, the Selectmen were directed to provide a school-master, the scholars to pay 4*d.* a week, and the remainder of the salary raised on the list. No further notice is taken of schools, town-wise, until 1697, when Richard Bushnell is appointed to keep the school for two months that year, and to be paid in land.

In 1698, David Hartshorn was engaged for the same time. Here it is probable that the town school died out.

In the year 1700, a startling fact appears in the indictments of the grand jury of the county:

*"Norwich presented for want of a school to instruct children."*

That measures were immediately taken to remedy this deficiency, we may infer from the fact that £6 was added to the next year's rate, for repairing the school-house, and about the same time a tract of land was granted to David Knight in payment for work upon the meeting-house and school-house.

It may not be true of all New England, but in some portions of it, for a considerable period after the first generation had passed away, education was neglected; the schools were of an inferior grade, and very grudgingly and irregularly sustained. This was probably owing to the paucity

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\* Weaver's Ancient Windham, p. 42. This Mr. Arnold was probably an Englishman, and must not be confounded with John Arnold, merchant of New London, who died in 1725, aged 73.

of good teachers, and the superfluous activity of the people, which led them to break away impatiently from sedentary pursuits. But the inevitable consequence was, that the grand-children of the first settlers were more illiterate than either the generation before or after them.

April 26, 1709, the town passed a resolution, "that they will have a school-master, according to law." This emphatic determination seems to imply an antecedent neglect. Richard Bushnell was again employed for a short period.

Jan. 26, 1712. In town meeting, Lieut. Joseph Backus, moderator :

"It was voted that a good and sufficient school-master be appointed to keep school the whole year and from year to year ; one half of the time in the Town Plot and the other half at the farms in the several quarters."

At this period 40s. on the list of every thousand pounds was granted by the country,—that is, by the General Court, for the benefit of schools, and each town was by law obliged to maintain a school for a certain part of the year.

After this we find nothing of importance in regard to schools until far into the century. The old course kept on with gradual improvements in teaching and a wider range of subjects, but with no systematic change of plan, to the era of boarding schools for misses and classical schools for boys.



## CHAPTER VII.

### TOWN AFFAIRS. GRANTS. PRUDENTIAL REGULATIONS.

LAND at this period was given away with a lavish hand. Grants were often made in this indefinite manner,—“where he can find it,”—“over the river,”—“at any place free from engagement to another,”—“at some convenient place in the common lands,”—“a tract not included in former grants,”—“what land may be suitable for him,”—“as much as he needs in any undivided land,” &c. A man obtains a lot, “for the conveniency of joining his lands together,”—another five or six acres “in order to straiten his line,”—and frequently in lieu of a *lap*, of somebody else, on his land. These *laps*, owing to imperfect surveys, were very numerous.

Several of the original home-lots measured double their nominal extent; the convenient terms, *more or less*, used in the grant, fortifying the owner's right. Often the grants were not only indefinite in situation and extent, but imperfectly recorded, and without date. In 1681, a resolution passed, that if no other date could be ascertained for the grant of any inhabitant, it was to take date from that period, and the title remain good and firm. Committees were frequently appointed to ascertain dates and add them to the old book of records. In 1683, one hundred acres of land—“where he can find it”—is granted to Capt. Fitch, “for being helpful to the town Recorder, in making a new record of lands.” This gentleman commenced a register of the proprietary lands, in a volume distinct from the town books. It is endorsed thus, “Norwich Book of Records of the River Lands. Capt. James Fitch writt this booke.” This register was afterwards partially copied and continued by Richard Bushnell and others, Clerks of the Proprietors, until the year 1740, when the final division of the common lands was made, the accounts of the proprietors closed, and their interests merged in those of the town.

Grants were uniformly made by a town vote. Examples :

1669. “Granted to one of Goodman Tracie's sonnes 100 akers of land in y<sup>e</sup> division of y<sup>e</sup> out lands.

“Granted to Sergent Waterman liberty to lay down twenty acres of upland over Showtucket river, and take it up again on the same side of the river, against Potapaug hills, adjoining to some other lands he is to take up, and the town leaves it to the measurers to judge respecting any meadow that may fall within the compass of it, whether it may be reasonable to allow it to him or not.”

“Granted to Mr. Brewster and John Glover two bits of land on the east side of Showtucket river, near their own land, they two with the help of Goodman Elderkin to agree peaceably about the division of it between them, and in case they cant well agree about the division then it falls to the town again.”

“Granted to Ch<sup>r</sup> Huntington, Sen<sup>r</sup>. an addition to his land at Beaver Brook to the quantity of seven or eight acres to bring his lot to the place where the great brook turns with an elbow.”

In 1682 we find the following entry :

“It is voted y<sup>t</sup> there shall be a book procured at town charge for the recording of lands, and allso a boat cumpas and y<sup>t</sup> there shall be allowed to any of the inhabitants of this towne to make a new survey of their land provided they take their neibors with y<sup>m</sup> whose land lyeth adjoining to them.”

To the confusion produced by contradictory deeds, grants without date, and careless surveys, was added that of undefined town limits. This led to vexatious and long-continued disputes with the Indians, and afterwards with the neighboring towns. The Selectmen were obliged to perambulate the bounds, in company with a committee from the adjoining towns, every year, and to see that the boundaries and meres were kept up. The preservation of boundaries, both public and private, was extremely difficult, where the only marks were a white oak tree, or a black oak with a crotch,—a tree with a heap of stones around it,—a twin tree,—a very large tree,—a great rock,—a stone set up,—a clump of chestnuts,—a walnut with a limb lopped off,—a birch with some gashes in it, &c. If a man set up a stone in the corner of his grant, with his initials marked on it, he was much more precise than his neighbors. A strip of land, about three miles in breadth, lying between the northern boundary of New London and the southern of Norwich, gave rise to much litigation and controversy, not only among individuals, but between the two towns, and the whites and Indians. Three parties claimed it, and each was officious in selling and conveying it to individuals, so that a collision of claims and interests was inevitable. It was long before this affair was satisfactorily settled. Many committees were appointed; and the town hoped to arrange the difficulty by referring it, as far as they were concerned, “to the worshipful Samuel Mason and the Rev. Mr. Fitch.” This tract is now included in Montville.

Dec. 31, 1669. “Ordered by the town concerning the outlands that there shall be only one allotment for the said lands and every man shall take his allotment in the place where God by his Providence shall cast it, Mr. Fitch only excepted.”

The meaning probably is, that Mr. Fitch had the liberty of choice, but others must abide by the lot.

Every enterprise that tended to advance the public convenience was patronized by a grant of land. The advancing settlements began to



require a regular ferry over Shetucket river, about the year 1670. Samuel Starr proposed to keep this ferry, and for his encouragement land was given him upon the east side of the river, where he began to build and make fences; but soon relinquished his purpose and forfeited the grant. In November of that year, the town reclaimed the grant and authorized reprisals; to wit:

Nov. 6, 1670. "The towne have given liberty promising defence to any that shall demolish whatsoever building or fencing is done upon said lands by Samuel Starr."

In 1671, Hugh Amos was engaged to keep the ferry, and the land made over to him.

Nov. 18, 1679. The ferry place over the Showtucket shall be at the upper end of the Island against the land of Lev. Leffingwell.—The adjoining lands granted to Hugh Amos for keeping the ferry are to extend as far as his neighbor Rockwell's land.—None to set up a ferry between this place and the mouth of the river."

A blacksmith was encouraged to enter upon business by a similar reward:

March 11, 1699. Granted to Joseph Backus so much land upon the hill by Thomas Post's house, as may be needful for him to set a shop and coal-house upon, provided he improves it for the above use.

This grant was confirmed the next year. The place was between the roads, just below Bean Bill, and remained in the Backus family for three generations.

July 7, 1704. The town being sensible of their need of another blacksmith desire that the son of Capt. Edmonds of Providence, may be invited to settle in the town, engaging that coals and a place to work in, shall be provided by the town.

This application was not successful. Jonathan Pierce was subsequently engaged as a smith, and land given him for his encouragement both in 1705 and 1712.

A miller, a ferryman, and a blacksmith, were important personages for the infant settlement.

A saw-mill would seem also to have been a desirable acquisition, but this convenience was not early obtained. In 1680 a grant of 200 acres of land was tendered to Capt. Fitch for his encouragement in setting up a saw-mill. This was reiterated in 1689, with the condition that if the mill was not forthcoming within two years, the privilege should be forfeited. In 1691 no mill had been built, and the town proposed to erect one on its own account. This was not done, and it does not appear that any saw-mill was set in operation, within the town limits, until about 1700.

The first planters might have had some of their work done at Mr. Winthrop's saw-mill on the river above New London, from whence the transportation by water was easy. But in general, the timber and plank that

composed the first habitations were hewed and shaped entirely by hand. Many of the houses were covered with short clapboards, overlapped like shingles, and these were split and cut without the aid of the saw-mill. The beams and rafters of old buildings still extant, are scarred with hatchet clefts. The axe was a mighty instrument, when wielded by these hardy pioneers. With a brave heart and a strong arm they marched into the wilderness, and it took but a short time to transform a clump of trees into a comfortable dwelling.

In 1690, a committee was appointed to fix upon a suitable position for a fulling-mill.

In 1704, Eleazer Burnham applied for "liberty to set up a fulling-mill upon the stream that runs into Shetucket river by the Chemical Spring." Thirty acres of land were granted to encourage the undertaking, and more promised if the enterprise should prove successful.

The project, however, failed. Competent workmen in this trade were then scarce in the country. Before the year 1710 there was but one clothier in the whole colony of Connecticut.

The regulation of swine was a subject brought up at almost every public meeting for a number of years. Innumerable were the perplexities, the votes and the reconsiderations respecting them. Sometimes they were ordered to be *rung* and *yoked*,—at others not: sometimes strictly confined, and then again suffered to go at large. There is no municipal act of those early days introduced with such prosy solemnity as the report of a committee on this subject, accepted and confirmed by the town:

"When Providence shall so order, (says the act,) that there are plenty of acorns, walnuts or the like in the woods then it may be considered and determined what liberty to grant in this respect that the swine may have the benefit and profit of it."

"In the time of acorns we judge it may be profitable to suffer swine two months or thereabouts to go in the woods without rings."

The stringency of these laws in regard to the confinement of swine, they justified by the necessity of the case: "Our corn-fields being remote from the settlement and our mowing lands not in one parcel, but scattered here and there through the town."

Yokes for swine were to be two feet in length, and six inches above the neck.

The recording of cattle-marks was a work of no small labor, and one which the increasing herds made every year more and more arduous. The pasture lands being mostly held in common, and private fences often rude and insecure, and therefore strays frequent, it was absolutely necessary that each man's cattle should bear a peculiar mark, and that this mark should be made matter of public record. These marks were made on the ear, and were of this kind—a cross, a half-cross, a hollow cross, a slit perpendicular, horizontal or diagonal, one, two, or three notches, a



penny, two pennies, or a half-penny, a crop or a half-crop, a swallow-tail, a three-cornered hole, &c.

All public affairs were transacted town-wise; and of course some mistakes were made in their legislation, which experience or mature deliberation corrected. Occasionally, under a town vote which had been recorded, an endorsement to this purport is found: "Ondon next meeting."

All the effective males turned out at certain seasons of the year, to labor on the highways, or to build and repair bridges. Two horse-bridges were very early erected over the Yantic, at each end of the town-plot; and before many years, six bridges over the same river were maintained by the town.

The roads leading into the country, and from town to town, were at first merely foot or bridle paths. It was a great advance when they were widened or cleared into cart-paths. *The path to New London* was exceedingly rough and circuitous, with several pitches meriting the name of *break-necks*. *The path to Connecticut*, often referred to in old records, was the road leading westward through Colchester, toward Hartford and Wethersfield.

The town street was originally laid out four rods wide in the narrowest part. Most of the branches or side-roads, leading into the woods, were kept as pent-ways, closed with gates or bars. Mill-lane was the regular avenue to the old Landing Place. There was no direct path to that rock-incumbered, forest-crowned Point between the rivers, where now an imposing city sits upon the hill, with her shining garments trailing far around her. The road thither from Mill-lane and No-man's Acre was very circuitous, following the turns of the river and the declivities of the hills. The whole point was considered scarcely worth a pine-tree shilling. For the first fifty years, almost the sole use made of that quarter of the town was for a sheep-walk, and for that purpose it was kept within fence and gate.

1670. "It is ordered if any person shall pass with horse or cattle over the general fence and so come through the Little Plain, to or from the town, he shall pay a fine of 5 shillings."

A gate was maintained at the town charge below the house of John Reynolds, another at Thomas Bliss's, or Leffingwell's corner, a third at the end of the Green by Mr. Fitch's, a fourth at Quarter-bridge lane, near the houses of John Calkins and Samuel Griswold, and a fifth at Stephen Merrick's on Bean Hill.

The fences were a continual source of vexation. One of the duties enjoined upon the townsmen was, "that they take effectual care to secure the fields in which is our livelihood." The winter was the season for making fences and cutting bushes. It was repeatedly ordered that all

front fences should be *done up* by the first of March, and the general fences by the first of April. The front fences were to be "a five rayle or equivalent to it, and the general fences a three rayle or equivalent to it." Afterwards a lawful fence upon plain ground was thus defined—"A good three rail fence, four feet high; or a good hedge, or pole fence, well staked, four and a half feet high." Two pounds were erected in 1669, one at each end of the town, which appear to have had plenty of occupants; for cattle, swine, sheep and goats often roamed at large, and trespasses were frequent.

March 2, 1685-6. "Voted that the town will cut bushes two days this ensuing year; one day on 'ye hill, the other in ye town, and that the townsmen procure hay-seed at the town charge."

In 1687, the order for bush-cutting was repeated in urgent terms, as absolutely necessary for the successful raising of sheep and swine, and the townsmen were empowered to call out for the customary two days' service, all the inhabitants between fourteen and seventy years of age, farmers only excepted.

The inhabitants being principally employed in agricultural pursuits, their trading must have been chiefly in the way of barter. Clothing and provisions formed the circulating currency. Loaded boats, however, frequently passed up and down the river, and the beginning of commerce was soon beheld at the old Landing Place.

No shopkeeper or merchant appears among the early inhabitants. Incidental allusions are found to temporary traders, but for a considerable period most of the commodities required for comfortable house-keeping, not produced among themselves, were probably procured at New London. Alexander Pygan, an early merchant of that place, but originally from Saybrook and doubtless well acquainted with Norwich people, had many customers among them, receiving in return for his merchandize, the rich produce of the field, the stall, and the dairy. A note-book of Mr. Pygan has been preserved, which contains the names of thirty-two persons in "Norwich and Windam," with whom he had accounts before 1700.

Inn-keepers were considered as town officers. The appointment was one of honor and respectability, and to obtain a license to keep a House of Entertainment, a man must be of good report and possessed of a comfortable estate. The first of whom we have any notice was Thomas Waterman.

"Dec. 11, 1679. Agreed and voted by y<sup>e</sup> town y<sup>t</sup> Sergeant Thomas Waterman is desired to keepe the ordynary. And for his eneouragement he is granted four aekers of paster land where he can convenyently find it ny about the valley going from his house into the woods."



To him succeeded, about 1690, Dea. Simon Huntington. Under date of Dec. 18, 1694, is the following appointment:

“The towne makes choise of calib abell to keep ordinari or a house of entertaynement for this yeare or till another be choosen.”

In 1700, liberty was given to Thomas Leffingwell to keep a House of Entertainment. This is supposed to have been the commencement of the famous Leffingwell tavern, at the east corner of the Town-plot, which was continued for more than a hundred years.

In 1706, Simon Huntington, Jr., was licensed; in 1709, Joseph Reynolds.

Dec. 1, 1713. “Sargent William Hide is chosen Taverner.”

These were in the town-plot.

The frequency of taverns in the early days of the country, when the population was slender and travelers were few, excites some surprise. But our English ancestors had a prescriptive love for a common gathering-place,—not a bar-room, nor a caravansery, nor even a club, but a fire-side, a porch, or a bench under the trees, where current events and private opinions might be circulated, and a kind of “portico parliament” held, with an accompaniment of a mug of flip or a drawing of cider. They have sent down to us a maxim which their own practice contradicted:

“Taverns are not for town-dwellers.”

The following order shows that an erroneous principle prevailed among the authorities of the town, viz., that church-membership conveyed civil rights and privileges. A regulation so remarkably prescriptive and sectarian in its bearing, could not have been long enforced in a mixed and rapidly increasing community. It has more of the Blue-law tincture than any other item upon the records of the town.

Dec. 11, 1679. Agreed and voted at a town meeting,—

“That the power and privilege of voting in town meetings in ordering any town affairs shall only belong to those who are the purchasers of the said plantation and consequently to their lawful heirs and not to any others who have been or shall be admitted to be inhabitants upon other considerations. Only it is granted to those who are or shall be church members, in full communion, equal privileges with us in the above mentioned town concerns.”

#### WEARS.

March 7, 1686. “Shetucket river from the mouth to the crotch of Quinnebaug is granted to Serg<sup>t</sup> Rich<sup>d</sup> Bushnell and three others with liberty to increase the number to *twelve* or *twenty* for the purpose of making wears and taking fish for the term of seven years, they attending to those things that are customary in other places in New England in respect to opening the weares.”

Great care was taken to admit no inhabitants that were not industrious and of good moral character. Transient persons, and those who had no particular way of getting a livelihood, were quickly warned out of town.

A few instances will be given to show the solicitude of the townsmen to keep the community free from vagrants and contemners of law and order.

“At a towne meeting January 24, 1678, the Towne having seryously considered the desires of Frederick Ellis lether-dresser respecting his admission into the towne to set up and make improvement of his trade,—we hearing some things y<sup>t</sup> doe apeare much discouraging and allso his comeing to us not being so orderly haveing no testimony from the place from whence he came of his comely behaviour among them but reports passing rather to the contrary, yet notwithstanding he being providentially amongst us we are willing to take a tryall of him for one yeare provided y<sup>t</sup> if he carryeth not comely and comfortably amongst us y<sup>t</sup> he shall now at his entrance give security under his hand y<sup>t</sup> upon a warning given him by the Select Men of the town he shall without delayes remove his dwelling from us.”

With the passage of this vote, space for a tannery was granted to Ellis upon Hammer brook, and seven acres of land promised conditionally, but after a short trial a collision occurred between him and the town authorities, which ended in his expulsion from the place, and a fruitless resort on his part to the courts for redress.

“1692.—Whereas Richard Elsingham and Ephraim Philips have petitioned this town that they may live here one year, the town do agree that they may dwell here the year ensuing, provided that they then provide for themselves elsewhere.”

No exchange or alienation of house-lots and no sale of lands could be made without the consent of the town. If a man sold house or land without first tendering it to the town and obtaining permission, the compact was declared null and void. An early exchange of allotments, made by Wade and Abell, is recorded with a ceremonious preamble:

“Forasmuch as in Anno Dom 1677, January 1, Caleb Abel and Robert Wade by mutual agreement and consent of their wives did then see cause to make an exchange of their home-lots, making over the property each to other by deed,” &c.

[Confirmed by the town, and signed by Robert Wade and his wife Susannah, Caleb Abel and his wife Margaret.]

In 1704, Thomas Rood sold his house and land without the consent of the town, and the sale was declared null and void.

The Annual Town Meeting was held at first in February, but afterward in December. Warnings for town meetings were set up six days before the time, at the smith's shop, (between the roads,) at the corner of the Green, at Ensign Leffingwell's, and other conspicuous places. The meetings were opened at 9 o'clock A. M., and must be dismissed half an hour before sunset, at the latest.



*Sheep-Walks and a Shepherd.* Several sheep-walks were laid out in different parts of the town, to accommodate the several districts. One of these was at Wequonuck Plains, and another, agreed upon in 1673, lay "between the Great River and the Great Plain," reaching south to Trading Cove.

Two others were reserved expressly for the benefit of sheep-owners living in the town-plot, and not for farmers, and were called the East and West sheep-walks. These remained long intact. The eastern reservation, of 900 acres, covered the Point between the rivers, now the central part of Norwich City. No special appointment of a shepherd to preside over this walk has been found. The west sheep-walk, of 700 acres, extended over West Wawecos Hill, and Richard Pasmoth was appointed the shepherd, Feb. 12, 1682. He was to have a salary of 40s. per annum, and twelve acres of land on the hill for a house-lot, and the sheep-owners were to take their turns with him in guarding and folding the flock on the Lord's days.

Sheep-raising, however, was never carried to its expected extent in Norwich, and in 1726 the two reservations were relinquished and divided as commons among the inhabitants, according to the following general principles:

No one to have less than a fifty-pound share.

First-comers who had fallen in estate, to be rated as at first.

All other shares to be laid out according to estates in the list.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### INDIAN HISTORY. ATTEMPTS OF MR. FITCH TO CHRISTIANIZE THE INDIANS. PHILIP'S WAR.

THE Mohegans were eager to exchange their services for the food, clothing and other comforts which they received from the English. Many of them erected wigwams in the vicinity of the settlers, and some even in their home-lots. The plantation soon swarmed with them, and the whites found them rather troublesome neighbors. Their habits of indolence, lying and pilfering were inveterate. At first, a strong hope of converting them to Christianity was very generally entertained, but the major part of the planters soon relinquished the task in despair. It was now found a work of no small difficulty to shake them off, or to keep them in due subjection and order. Laws were repeatedly made for their removal from the town, but still they remained. Restrictions of various kinds were thrown around them; a fine of 10s. was imposed on every one who should be found drunk in the place; the person who should furnish an Indian with ammunition of any kind, was amerced 20s., but they were neither driven away, nor their morals improved.

The Indian of that day,—the one with whom the early settlers had to deal,—was a heathen of the most untameable species. He would readily fall into vicious habits, but if he made any advance in civilization, it was accompanied with a tendency to relapse, which rendered it necessary to be cautious in trusting him, even when he seemed the safest. Vagrancy was his nature and his habit, and he was moreover deceitful and thievish beyond remedy.

With such a people swarming around them, the path of the settlers, however beautifully embellished with roses in other respects, was beset with troublesome thorns. There is no race of men whom it has been found so difficult to civilize and Christianize, and at the same time to preserve and render prosperous, as the Aborigines of America. A change of their wild habits leads by degrees, more or less rapid, to extinction.

The conversion of these Indians was a cherished object with the Rev. Mr. Fitch. He continually sought opportunities for sowing the seed, and his earnest faith and large-hearted charity made him hopeful of the har-



vest. He cultivated an intercourse with the tribe, and made use of every opportunity for acquiring their language.

Most of the early settlers of Norwich gleaned enough of the Indian tongue to be able to chaffer and chat with their vagrant visitors, and learn the general news of the tribe. The Indians on their part were equally venturesome and successful in their inroads upon the English speech. But Mr. Fitch, having a great purpose in view, pursued the study of the native tongue with system and a fair measure of success. After a few years he was able not only to instruct in private, or with an interpreter, but could speak in a way to be understood and appreciated in assemblies of the tribe.

With the sachems and chiefs, Christianity was never popular; not all their reverence for Mr. Fitch and the benefits he heaped upon them, could induce them to accept his doctrine and worship the Being whom he adored. Uncas and Owaneco, it is true, fluctuated somewhat in their bearing toward the subject, but at heart were never its favorers, and Wawequaw, the brother of Uncas, a chief of power and influence, if we may believe tradition, was invariably hostile.

But among the poorer, gentler, and more scattered families, particularly among the tributaries and those adopted from other tribes, who were often oppressed by Uncas, Mr. Fitch found willing ears and accessible hearts. Here the gospel seemed to come as into a prepared place, bringing with it peace and comfort. Mr. Fitch rejoiced over these poor people as over lost children that had been found, and collected them into a small community, setting over them instructors and guardians from among themselves, whom he himself taught and trained for their office.

The war with Philip commenced in June, 1675, and raged about fifteen months. Mr. Fitch was an active agent and valued counselor of the government. Norwich and Stonington were frontier towns, and consequently kept during the whole course of the war in a state of excitement and apprehension. Alarming rumors swept over them with every wind. Soldiers from all quarters, horse and foot, came among them for rendezvous; bands of friendly Indians, apparreled for war, made these their starting-points; and often other parties, connected with the hostile tribes, forlorn, abject, famished, came from their haunts to take whatever doom—kindness, captivity, or death—might be awarded to them.

Of these incidents, interesting and exciting as they are, the town records furnish no information. Indian regulations and warlike proceedings were affairs of the general government, and not of selectmen and constables. We must therefore look elsewhere for mementoes of the war.\*

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\* The author has very carefully prepared the following review of Philip's war. The principal facts may be verified from the second volume of Conn. Col. Records, but various hints, dates and minor circumstances have been gathered from county court papers, and other local MSS., public or private.

A rapid sketch of the shifting scenes presented to the inhabitants of Norwich during this period of alarm, is all that can be here attempted. The picture would serve, with a change of names and some variation of detail, for almost every town then lying upon the barbarian frontier.

In July, 1675, those vague alarms that had occasionally swept out of the wilderness, became embodied in startling reports of hostile Indians prowling in the vicinity. An invasion was apprehended, a night watch was established; several houses at intervals along the street were fortified, and householders lay down to sleep with loaded muskets by their side.

Brewster, Mason, and Tracy, the train-band officers of the town, were summoned to attend upon Capt. Wait Winthrop, with a certain number of men, and assist in an expedition into the Narragansett country, to prevent that tribe, if possible, from joining the party of Philip.\* Uncas came to consult with Mr. Fitch, and Mr. Fitch visited the Pequots to see if all was right in that quarter. The Indians consented to join the English, but apparently with a doubtful mind, and inclined to take that side only because it was the strongest.†

Of Uncas the English had at first deep distrust. He professed great friendship in his consultation with Mr. Fitch, but the latter thought it prudent that he should be induced to commit himself as soon as possible, by some act of hostility against Philip. The sachem saw where his interest lay, and consented to engage in immediate action. Before the end of July, fifty Mohegan warriors, staunch and well caparisoned, under the command of Owaneco, who had two other sons or near relatives of Uncas with him, were ready to start for Boston, there to offer their services against the Pocasset chief. They paused in Norwich to obtain letters from Mr. Fitch and Lieut. Mason, and then proceeded to the Bay. At Boston the two younger chiefs were retained as hostages, but Owaneco and his men were dispatched to join the Massachusetts forces then in the field. It was this party that on the 1st of August fell upon the rear of Philip's retreating force, at Rehoboth plain, and killed a number of his men,—among them one of his bravest captains, named Woonashum, alias Nimrod.‡

Major Pynchon of Springfield, in a letter to Gov. Winthrop of Connecticut, Aug. 7, 1675, observes:

“If y<sup>e</sup> Pequot Indians and Moheags would now pursue Philip while he is faint and weary it would be the best service, and so likewise for our army: for y<sup>e</sup> Indians say he hath left his country wholly; so that it is to noe purpose to be there, neither is there any need of fear about Norwich.”§

\* Lieut. Tracy was the Quartermaster or Commissary of the expedition. Conn. Col. Rec., 2, 332.

† Ibid., 2, 336.

‡ Increase Mather's Hist. of Philip's War, Drake's excellent edition, p. 65.

§ Ibid., Appendix, p. 238.



At this time, Joshua, another son of Uncas, took the field with a band of thirty Indians, and went up by the way of Hartford, to scour the woods in the route of the retreating foe. He was at Hadley, Aug. 9th.\*

In the latter part of August, a body of Nipmug Indians, comprising twenty or thirty families, 126 in all, surrendered themselves to Uncas. Lieut. Mason also, with a party of volunteers, whites and Indians, made a hasty march into the wilderness, to secure a troop of timid, unsettled, wandering Indians, allies of Philip, that had been arrested in their flight westward by the friendly Wabequassets, and detained for English supervision.† These were brought to Mohegan and delivered in charge to Uncas, but the greater part were afterward transferred to Boston.

During the month of September, the Mohegans and Pequots were out with their whole force. Every able-bodied man among them was engaged in the various forays against the enemy, generally attached to some English command, but under little restraint in regard to forage and plunder.

Major Pyncheon, in a letter to the Council of Connecticut, notices among the forces in the field, "Those English that have gone out of Norwich with Lt. Browne and about 80 Pequots and some Mohegans."‡

Lieut. Mason, also, had a hundred or more of the warriors of these tribes under his command, and marched with them to Hartford, from whence they joined the expedition into western Massachusetts under Major Treat.§ Smaller scouting parties under Uncas himself, or some of his family, were frequently making excursions towards the Nipmuck country, and bringing home prisoners or booty.

In October the alarm increased. A portion of the enemy were retiring from Narragansett to the interior, and were supposed to be gradually approaching Norwich. The wildest rumors prevailed, and great apprehension was excited. The power and resources of Philip and the number and strength of his allies were greatly exaggerated. At length a report came that Philip with 400 men was meditating a desperate attack upon Norwich, and on the 15th of October the Council at Hartford ordered forty soldiers to march immediately to the defence of the place. The rumor seems to have been without foundation, but when the next levies were made, New London County, being considered in jeopardy, was exempted from furnishing its quota. A company was however organized from the four towns, to hold themselves in readiness for any exigency, and placed under the command of Capt. John Winthrop. Norwich furnished twenty men, to whom were joined a band of Mohegan auxiliaries, forming a company, with Capt. Mason and Lieut. Leffingwell for their immediate officers.

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\* Conn. Col. Rec., 2, 348, 49.

† Ibid., 2, 355.

‡ Ibid., 2, 348.

§ Ibid., 2, 366.

On the 2d of November, the Commissioners declared war against the Narragansetts, and the whole country started into immediate action. A thousand men were to be raised: the proportion of Connecticut was 315; of New London County, 70; of Norwich, 18:—all to be equipped with arms and ammunition and to be in the field by the 10th of December.

The rendezvous was at New London. The towns were scoured for provisions; the county was embargoed for two months, and wheat, cheese, beef, pork, Indian corn, oats and rum were seized and sequestered for the army wherever they could be found in quantities beyond the necessary demands of their owners. Wheat to the amount of three hundred bushels was hastily baked into biscuits. Ten men from every county were furnished with hatchets, instead of swords and guns, to clear the way through the thickets.

Major Treat went forward with the army. Norwich was on the frontier, and at the mercy of hostile Indians who might suddenly cross the Quinebaug and make a dashing raid upon the settlement, with every prospect of success, while so many of her best men were in the field. In great alarm she applied to the Council of War for a guard, and twenty-six men were accordingly detailed "to lye in garrison at Norwich."

And now the colonies resounded with the deep echoes of the Narragansett fort fight, which gave such a mournful notoriety to December 19th. Eighty out of Major Treat's little army were slain or fatally wounded, 138 more disabled from duty, and he hastened back to New London with his battered forces. The gallant Capt. John Mason, fearfully wounded, but not yet despairing of recovery, was brought by the aid of his Indian warriors with great care to his own home. Nine of his little company were killed or badly wounded, one of whom was Thomas Howard, who is usually classed among the first band of Norwich proprietors. He was left dead upon the field of battle. Capt. Mason also ultimately died of his wounds, Sept. 18, 1676.\*

This was emphatically the winter of gloom. Norwich was a garrisoned town; twenty or thirty soldiers were quartered upon the inhabitants; a block-house was built; private houses were fortified. It was a general order throughout the colony, that the inhabitants should carry arms and ammunition with them to every public meeting; but at this time, upon the frontier, it was necessary to keep a loaded musket continually at hand, and to be well armed in passing from house to house, and especially in driving

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\* Capt. Gallop of Groton, who commanded the Mohegans and Pequots, was slain in the battle.

"It hath pleased God to humble us, by translating to rest out of the bed of honour in the service of Christ, severall worthy and valiant comanders and souldiers both of ours and yours." Letter from Gov. and Council of Mass. to Gov. and Council of Conn. after Narragansett fort fight. Col. Rec. Conn., 2, 399.



cattle or tending sheep. The woods were supposed to be haunted with prowling enemies. The Indians around them, quick, fearful, and imaginative as children, with their rumors and fancies increased the general excitement. Uncas, though in the main a valuable ally to the whites, and attesting his friendship by numerous expeditions and blows in their behalf, yet conceiving that his own interest might be served by keeping his neighbors in a state of alarm, did not hesitate to make use of that advantage. He blew up the coals and cried loudly, fire! fire! that he might have the credit of quenching the flames. This was the cunning streak conspicuous in the character of Uncas: *wily* is the most expressive epithet that can be attached to his name.

On the 25th of January, 1676, Major Treat left New London on a second expedition into the wilderness, with a force of about 300 men.\* Mr. Fitch accompanied him as chaplain,—Uncas and his warriors as scouts. They were absent twelve days, and killed and captured about seventy. During this interval, Norwich experienced something more than rumor and panic. The tomahawk swept along her eastern border, and left slaughter in its track. A band of Indians, supposed to be Narragansetts, prowling on the east side of Shetucket, killed two men, and carried off a young lad as prisoner.

The only cotemporary account of this affair is contained in a letter from Major Palmes of New London to the Council of War, dated Jan. 29th:

“This morning early came post from Norwich with the sad intelligence of two men and a boy being taken and killed, who went over Showtucket River to spread flax, viz. Jos: Rockwell and his boy of 15 or 16 years ould and John Renolls Jun. of Norwich. The said Jos: Rockwell and Renolls ware found dead and thrown downe y<sup>e</sup> River banke, theire sealps eutt off: the boy is not yett found, supposed to be earyed away alive.”†

Mr. Fitch was absent with Major Treat's expedition at the time of this outrage, otherwise we might have looked for an account of it from his pen, as he usually kept the authorities at Hartford well informed of occurrences in his neighborhood. No allusion to it is to be found on the records of the town. The deaths of the two men are registered without notice of their tragic end. The captive boy, Josiah Rockwell, Jr., was soon afterward recovered by the aid of a friendly Indian.‡

\* Conn. Col. Rec., 2, 402. Trumbull in Hist. of Conn. does not mention this second expedition.

† Conn. Col. Rec., 2, 403.

‡ A mistake seems to have been made in his age. His birth as registered in Norwich was in June, 1662. He was therefore less than 14. The inventory of Josiah Rockwell, the father, was exhibited in the County Court in September, 1676. A wife and six children are mentioned. The oldest child was this Josiah; the youngest not born until after the father's decease.

Early in February an expedition of sixty or eighty impressed men, from the four towns of New London County, under Capt. Denison and Lieut. Minor, with Mohegan and Pequot flankers, assembled at Norwich and marched toward Wabequasset to disperse the lurking foe in that quarter. After this the noise of clashing arms and tramping hosts passed around to the north, the seat of war being transferred to the neighborhood of Connecticut river. Edward Culver and his Indian scouts trailed off in that direction, and in this county a short period of security intervened. The towns were nevertheless kept lively by frequent raids made by volunteer parties into Narragansett and the Nipmuck country, to hunt out the last remains of hostility and gather the scattered booty.

At this period of comparative serenity, the Fast Day, appointed by the Council (March 22d), was kept by Mr. Fitch and his congregation with unexampled solemnity. This will be more particularly noticed in another chapter.

Before the end of March the blast of war again veered toward Narragansett. Major Treat was ordered to march with a hundred men to Norwich, where recruits and provisions were to be collected for a fresh expedition against the foe. Before, however, the Major could reach the rendezvous, he was suddenly recalled and ordered to the defence of Simsbury, which had been attacked by the enemy. The contemplated expedition was therefore consigned to the charge of Major Palmes, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Fitch as counselor.

The force assembled consisted of 42 volunteers, 37 pressed men, and 100 Indians,—three parties not well inclined to act in concert. Major Palmes complains of them as a disorderly company,—“every man his own carver,”—and at the same time gives a side-thrust at Norwich for sending but 15 men, “which (he says) may well be furnished out, when 20 men are maintained in their place at the country’s charge.”\*

The Major did not himself accompany the expedition. Its officers were Denison, Avery, Minor, and Leffingwell, and it proved one of the most successful forays of the war. They left Norwich, March 27th, and returned the 4th or 5th of April, having killed and captured forty-four of the natives. Among the captives was the brave sachem Canonchet or Nanunteno, the son of Miantonomoh, who was carried to Stonington, and there shot,—the unfortunate victim of a too stern vengeance.

In May a much larger force was raised by the colony. It was designed to consist of 350 men besides Indian auxiliaries, and was to be kept in service as a standing army during the war. The command was assigned to Major Talcott. Norwich was the place of rendezvous, and the first movement was to be made into the northern wilderness in search of the Poconticks and Nipmucks. After long waiting for the necessary supplies,

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\* Conn. Col. Rec., 2, 427.



the Major left Norwich, June 2d, with a force of 250 English soldiers, all on horses, and 200 Indian warriors on foot, and reached Hadley on the 8th. Mr. Fitch accompanied the army as chaplain, and the Rev. Gershom Bulkley as surgeon. On the march they killed and captured above fifty forest wanderers, sparing the women and children and sending them to Norwich with a guard. Hadley was attacked by the Indians, June 12th, and but for the presence of this force from Connecticut, of whose arrival the attacking party seems not to have been aware, would probably have been destroyed. Major Talcott went as far north and west as Deerfield Falls, and returned to Connecticut after an absence of eighteen days.

Major Talcott left Norwich again on the 29th or 30th of June, and led his army toward Providence, and from thence south through the Indian territory to Point Judith, accomplishing with vigor and rapidity the work he was sent to perform. This expedition was pre-eminently successful, so far as slaughtering and making captives of the wretched savages may be called success: 238 were killed or taken prisoners, and among the latter was a well-known female chief called the Sunkesquaw. Mr. Fitch was the chaplain of this tour of service also.

Still another expedition into the Indian country was led by Major Talcott, the point of departure being this time New London, which had been the rendezvous of the army on its return from Narragansett. They left New London in the latter part of July, went first to Taunton, and from thence turned west, following the enemy to the Connecticut. The Indians crossed the river at the foot of the Great Falls, on rafts, August 11th. Talcott reached Westfield on the 12th, but being short of provisions, he sent back his horses and all his force except sixty soldiers and as many Indian warriors, and with these pursued the retreating foe to the Housatonic. He overtook them on the west side of that river, August 15th, killed and captured a considerable number, and dispersed the rest. He then returned to the settlements, half-famished and worn down with fatigue and exposure. This was the expedition afterwards distinguished as "the long and hungry march."\* Its whole course was from New London to Taunton, and from thence through the wilderness to nearly the western limit of Massachusetts, and back to Hartford.

In the meantime Philip had been slain at Mount Hope, by a party of English and friendly Indians, under Capt. Church of Rhode Island, and there was very little more fighting to be done.

Though Connecticut suffered but slightly during this war, from any actual attack within her borders, she certainly bore her full part in its fightings, marchings, and privations.

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\* Trumbull has erroneously given this descriptive title to the expedition of Talcott in June.

We have designed to rehearse the incidents of Philip's war only from a Norwich point of view, and to enter upon them no farther than as they affected her inhabitants and were connected with her history. But from this brief statement it appears that beside the various forays upon the enemy by volunteers under Captains Denison, Avery, Minor, and others, seven successive expeditions marched from New London County into the Indian territory in the space of little more than a year, under the direction of the Governor and Council of War.

1. July, 1675, from New London, under Capt. Wait Winthrop, who met the forces from Massachusetts, and a treaty of peace was concluded with the Narragansetts, July 15th.

2. Dec. 10th, from New London, under Major Treat: 300 soldiers and 150 Indian warriors. These took part in the Swamp fort fight.

3. Jan. 26th, 1676, from New London, under Major Treat. The army went through Westerly, Charlestown, Kingston, and Wickford; united with the Massachusetts forces and pursued the enemy into the Nipmuck country; returned, Feb. 5th, to Norwich.

4. March 27th, from Norwich, prepared by Major Palmes, sent into Narragansett under Capt. Denison; returned to Stonington, July 4th or 5th.

5. June 2d, from Norwich, under Major Talcott; went to Hadley and Deerfield; 250 English and 200 Indians.

6. June 29th or 30th, the same army from Norwich, under Major Talcott; scoured the Narragansett country, and returned to New London, July 8th, and recruited.

7. July 20th, from New London, under Talcott; went first to Taunton, and from thence west to Housatonick river.

Since the settlement of our country, New England has known no war so terrific in its features as this; none that filled the country with such alarm and apprehension; none attended with such burdensome toil both in marching into the wilderness and in keeping guard at home. The regulations of the Council of War were exceedingly stringent. Great labor was expended upon fortifications; a watch was kept night and day in every town through the colony, and in March, 1676, measures of extraordinary vigilance being considered necessary, all the effective inhabitants of every plantation were obliged to take their turn as watches or scouts.\*

Soldiers engaged merely in defence of their own town or county, received no pay. The whites and Indians engaged in volunteer expeditions against the enemy, were compensated by the plunder they amassed. The forces raised by the colony were under pay at the following rates:

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\* Conn. Col. Rec., 2, 417.



Major, 30s. per week; Captain, 20s.; Lieutenant, 16s.; Ensign, 14s.; Sergeant, 12s.; a private soldier, 8s.

For a horse, 3s. per week was allowed.

For quarterage of a soldier, 5s. per week.

Pasturage for a horse, 4d. per day.\*

Though Norwich during the whole of Philip's war was kept in continual alarm, and the town was often changed from a quiet village to a tumultuous camp, yet the only actual outrage upon the inhabitants was the slaughter of Reynolds and Rockwell. This is a remarkable fact, considering the recent origin of the town and its situation upon the frontier during a barbarian war. The whole colony was indeed singularly favored with exemption from the stain of blood. The two men above named, with three that were slain in the neighborhood of Hartford,† were the only English persons killed while the war lasted, within the bounds of Connecticut.

*Surrenderers.* During the war a considerable number of the Indians voluntarily gave themselves up to the English, or to the Mohegan sachem. Small tribes and companies, that had been necessarily forced into some degree of intercourse with the hostile bands, but had not taken arms, or committed any act of violence against the whites, found themselves in continual danger of being treated as enemies, and therefore sought protection and safety under the shadow of the English settlements. Several of these companies came of themselves to Norwich, or were brought in by the soldiers; others were collected by the Mohegan scouts. In August, 1676, no less than sixty-five men, with their retinue of old men, women, and children, at one time gave in their adhesion to Uncas.

Mr. Fitch manifested a deep interest in the fate of these homeless, broken-spirited strangers. He earnestly requested that they might be settled in a community by themselves, apart from the control of Uncas and the debasing influence of heathenism. The Council of War gave a temporary and conditional sanction to his benevolent designs. They say:

“Norwich gentlemen are desired to consider of a place for such as are not otherwise disposed of to plant on, as near as may be for Mr. Fitch to have often recourse to them till the General Court, or some other Court or Council, doe order or appoynt them elsewhere.”‡

It proved to be a difficult business to manage. Vagrants skulking in the woods, half-famished wanderers, fearfully imploring aid, the forlorn

\* Conn. Col. Rec., 2, 386.

† These three were John Kirby of Middletown, killed between Middletown and Wethersfield; Edward Elmore of East Windsor, killed at Podunk; and Henry Denslow of Windsor.

‡ Conn. Col. Rec., 2, 475.

remnants of former considerable tribes, meekly submitting to the hunters: when all these were gleaned out of the wilderness, not only the Mohegans, but the Pequots of Groton and the friendly tribes at or near Stonington, were embarrassed with the multitude of fugitives. The Council of War therefore appointed three Commissioners, Samuel Wyllis, James Richards, and John Allyn, to hold a general Indian convention at Norwich on the second Wednesday of December, and there, in concert with Mr. Fitch, as one of them, "to receive, dispose and settle all surrenderers according to order."\*

Of this meeting no special record has been preserved, though several allusions show that it took place. It must have displayed the greatest assemblage of Indians that were ever gathered at one time in Norwich, famous as the place has been for similar meetings. The neighboring tribes were summoned to appear and give account of all captives and surrenderers, with the time of their coming in. Then the Committee were to call for their personal appearance, and "to list them by their names, their relations and progenies respectively."

All young and single persons were to be settled in English families as apprentices for ten years. Those taken in war were to be sold as permanent bondsmen, and distributed to each county proportionably; while others were to be disposed of temporarily in some fit place under English teachers and Indian constables, and every full-aged man was to pay to the colony a yearly tribute of 5s. per head as an acknowledgment of subjection.

These were rigorous terms. How far they were put into execution is not known, nor has the number of registered persons been ascertained. Some were doubtless concealed or favored by the friendly Indians. Uncas was accused of double-dealing with his captives and dependents,—keeping some at hard service, accusing others falsely to the English, and instigating many to run away. A certain number of innocent families were registered by Mr. Fitch and placed under his superintendence. With respect to these the following action of the town is recorded:

Feb. 1, 1676-7. A motion was made by the Rev. Mr. Fitch with reference to a place of residence for those Indians who are *listed surrenderers*, where they might be entertained and accommodated with lands for their improvement in order to their comfortable living till such time as some other way may be made open for them.

The Town consented that they should settle on the hill called Wawequos, where they should have liberty, they behaving themselves orderly, to make the best improvement of the place for their own advantage for 4 years without any rent being demanded.

It is probable that the highland ridge, called Waweekus, in the western

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\* Conn. Col. Rec., 2, 481.



part of the town, near the present line of Bozrah, was the place designed for this Indian settlement. From some cause not explained, the project failed of accomplishment. . A few families may have been gathered upon the hill, but if so they were soon dispersed. The kind-hearted Mr. Fitch labored hard for his poor Indians, yet with unsatisfying results. Out of the hundreds that surrendered during the war, only one village consisting of about thirty families was actually established, and this was on a reservation, laid out by the town for this express purpose, between the rivers Shetucket and Quinebaug, where Owaneco and his people had formerly sojourned.

This settlement was effected during the winter and spring of 1678. The Indians, known afterwards as *the Showtuckets*, were provided with corn and other necessities to begin life anew, and a fort was built for their protection. Mr. Fitch, in his report of the business to the General Court, observes:

“I am sufficiently informed there are a considerable number more abiding with Uncus, who are doubtless willing to come and settle with the others, but are meerly hindered by Uncus.”\*

It was hoped that this remnant of a subdued race would take root and prosper and grow into a permanent community. They had comfortable wigwams, and were furnished with some of the tools and conveniences of civilized life. But the settlement seems to have languished for a few years, and finally tapered into extinction. The enmity and intrigues of Uncas were alone sufficient to deaden its prosperity. At its outset, one of the men was waylaid and murdered, and though Uncas endeavored to fasten the deed upon the Mohawks, Mr. Fitch believed that it was done with his connivance and by some of his agents.

In the meantime Norwich was harrassed with Indian fugitives. It is probable that the well-known benevolence of Mr. Fitch allured many of these troublesome dependents to the town, but their thriftless habits and pilfering propensities could not be long endured. At length a vigorous effort was made to clear them all away, except those that were engaged as family servants.

Nov. 12, 1678. In town meeting an order was passed, requiring the Selectmen to remove forthwith all Indians from the town plot. Twelve days warning was to be given, and if, after that, any inhabitant should allow them to remain on his home-lot or pasture near the town, he was to pay a fine of twenty shillings. Similar orders were reiterated from time to time, yet a few families of resident Indians continued in the town until they slowly melted away. Several wigwams remained far into the next century. One of the last that decayed was on the hill not far from the

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\* Conn. Col. Rec., 2, 591.

spot where the *Marsh* house stands, the place being still known to aged people as the *wigwam pasture*. It was a part of Leffingwell's grant.

#### MR. FITCH'S PRAYER FOR RAIN.

The summer of 1676 was remarkable for a long-continued drought. It was particularly severe in the southern part of Connecticut; the fields of Indian corn were parched, and the Mohegans were apprehensive that they should lose their whole crop. They had recourse to powwows, incantations, and various heathenish rites, but could get no rain. At length they applied to Mr. Fitch, entreating him to intercede with the Lord of the harvest to refresh their drooping fields with the customary showers.

Of this drought and the successful prayer for rain, an account is given under Mr. Fitch's own hand, which he calls "a true narrative of that providence."

"In August last such was the want of rain, that the Indian corn was not only dried and parched up, but the apple trees withered, the fruit and leaves fell off as in autumn, and some trees seeming to be dead with that drouth; the Indians came into town and lamented their want of rain, and that their powwows could get none in their way of worship, desiring me that I would seek to God for rain: I appointed a fast-day for the purpose; the day being come it proved clear without any clouds until sunsetting when we came from the meeting, and then some clouds arose; the next day remained cloudy; then Uncas with many Indians came to my house, Uncas lamented there was such a want of rain: I asked whether if God should send us rain he would not attribute it to their powwows; he answered no, for they had done their utmost and all in vain: I replied, if you will declare it before all these Indians you shall see what God will do for us, for although this year he hath shewn his anger against the English and not only against the Indians, yet he hath begun to save us, and I have found by experience twice in the like case, when we sought by fasting and prayer he hath given us rain, and never denied us. Then Uncas made a great speech to the Indians (which were many) confessing that if God should then send rain, it could not be ascribed to their powwowing, but must be acknowledged to be an answer of our prayers. This day they [the clouds] spread more and more, and the next day there was such plenty of rain that our river rose more than two feet in height."\*

An impression has prevailed somewhat extensively, that Uncas yielded at length to the eloquence of Mr. Fitch and the convictions of truth, and became at least a favorer of Christianity, and an outward attendant upon its ministrations.† This charitable inference is based upon the sachem's frequent promises to attend upon the preaching of the word, the bond or pledge to this effect signed by him at the instance of Major Talcott, and the impression made on his mind by Mr. Fitch's prayer for rain, as related above. Unfortunately the sequence of dates militates against this favor-

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\* Relation of Mr. Fitch in Hubbard's Narrative of Indian Wars.

† "Whether Uncas died in faith or not, I am unable to say. It is agreeable, however, to find him at last acknowledging the God who is above, and paying homage to the religion of his Son." Holmes' Memoir of the Mohegans.



able judgment, and *the fallacy* of the sachem, as Mr. Fitch calls his double-dealing, deprives us of all confidence in his promises.

The pledge to attend on the ministry and to encourage his people to do ~~the same~~ was signed June 7, 1673. In September, 1674, Uncas sent an agent to Wabequisset, (Woodstock,) to meet Mr. Elliot, who was then on a preaching tour to the Indians, to protest against the introduction of Christianity among his tributaries in that region,—the agent delivering his message in these brief expressive terms:

“Uncas is not well pleased that the English should pass over Mohegan river, to call his Indians to pray to God.”\*

The character of Uncas, as drawn at this time by General Gookin, comprehends only sinister and repulsive features:

“Unkus, an old and wicked wilful man, a drunkard and otherwise very vitious; who hath always been an opposer and underminer of praying to God.”

The sachem's recognition of the mighty power of God, in the successful prayer for rain, was in 1676. But in May, 1678, Mr. Fitch depicts his character in colors of the blackest dye. He accuses him of hostility to the English, and hatred of their rulers, laws, and religion; of cunning, malice, robbery, oppression, and breaking of pledges, closing the statement by saying that he is

“The greate opponent of any meanes of soul's good and concernment to his people and abounding more and more in dancings and all manner of heathenish impieties since the warrs and vilifying what hath been done by the English and attributing the victory to their Indean helps.”†

Such is the latest contemporary portrait of the sachem Uncas, drawn, too, by a truthful, tender-hearted, saintly man, proverbially the friend of the aborigines, and a benefactor to the sachem himself. It is impossible, therefore, for the most lenient judgment or the most ardent hope to conceive of him as a Christianized man, or even a noble-hearted barbarian. Yet there were some valuable points about him. He manifested a certain degree of native talent, a more than common share of worldly wisdom, and a persevering activity in securing the independence of his tribe. Moreover, the generous and kindly treatment which the Narragansett prince received from him, while in his power as a captive, ought to be placed to the credit of the Mohegan chief. Miantonomoh confessed that he had nothing to complain of in this respect, and that the courtesy he had experienced was beyond the common degree of consideration in such cases.

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\* Gookin's Hist. Col. of the Indians.

† Conn. Col. Rec., 2, 593.

The savage character of Uncas is by no means an exponent of that of his tribe. Whatever they may have been in the days of their heathenism, for the last hundred years they have been noted as a civil, teachable, active, and intelligent people. With the sachem himself the inhabitants of the town always sustained amicable relations, and his tribe, the Mohegans, from the earliest period of the settlement to the present day, may be called favorites with the people of Norwich. They have been looked after with almost parental care, and the men of most influence in the town, on all public questions, have taken their part, against the state and against opposing tribes.



## CHAPTER IX.

CHURCH HISTORY. THE MEETING-HOUSE ON THE HILL. MR. WOODWARD'S SETTLEMENT. GRAVE-YARDS.

THE Meeting-house Green or Plain was originally somewhat larger than it is at the present day. A considerable slice, where the post-office and several dwelling-houses stand, was cut off from the common in 1684, and given to Capt. James Fitch, as an addition to the home-lot bestowed on him by his father. The first meeting-house stood near the south-west corner of the Green, not far from the dwellings of the minister and magistrate, and forming with them the three corners of a triangle.\* It is not probable that this primitive church had either steeple, porch, or gallery. We may conjecture that a sun-dial stood near the door, and perhaps a horse-block. Without doubt it was furnished with a pulpit, though no tasseled cushion supported the open Bible. In all probability long benches were used instead of pews,—the men sitting on the right hand of the minister, and the women on the left. A choir of singers was then unknown; the deacon read off the lines, and the congregation followed in tuneful quavers.

In 1668 a small rate was collected to pay Samuel Lothrop “for repairing and heightening the meeting-house.” But this first rough-hewn edifice could not long satisfy the demands of the growing town. It was in use only twelve or fourteen years.

In 1673 the town contracted with John Elderkin to build forthwith a new meeting house. The site fixed for it was the summit of the hill, towering over the Green, and looking east and west toward the two ends of the town-plot. The country was at this period in a disturbed condition. The atmosphere was dark with the shadows of approaching evil. On the western border of New England the Dutch had assumed a threatening attitude, and several of the larger Indian tribes appeared surly and vindictive.

In this posture of affairs, if a new meeting-house was to be built, the

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\* We learn the situation from incidental allusions afterwards made to the place *where the old meeting-house stood*; as in the following item :

1684. “Granted to Capt. Fitch, a gusset of land from the S. E. corner of the old meeting-house to the corner of his father’s home-lot.”

prudence and foresight of the managers would lead them to select for it an appropriate site. On this elevated platform it could not be easily surprised, and it might serve as a watch-tower, an arsenal, and a garrison-post, as well as a house of worship.

The building committee were Deacon Hugh Calkins, Ensign Thomas Leffingwell, Ensign Thomas Tracy, Simon Huntington, and William Backus. It was completed in the course of two years. Elderkin had contracted to build it for £428, but the expense exceeding his estimate, he presented in town meeting the following petition:

CHRISTIAN FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS,—

Your humble petitioner pleadeth your charitie for the reasons hereafter expressed. Gentlemen, it is well known that I have been undertaker for building of the meeting-hous, and it being a piece of work very difficult to understand the whole worth and value off, yet notwithstanding I have presumed to doe the work for a certain sum of money, (to wit,) 428 pound, not haveing any designe thereby to make myself rich, but that the towne might have there meeting-hous dun for a reasonable consideration. But upon my experience, I doe find by my bill of cost, I have dun said work very much to my dammage, as I shall now make appear. Gentlemen, I shall not say much unto you, but onely if you may be made sencible of my loss in said undertaking, I pray for your generous and charitable conclusion toward me, whether it be much or little, I hope will be well excepted from your poor and humble petitioner.

JOHN ELDERKIN.

The town declared themselves to be at this time greatly burdened by the necessity of raising the £428; but as a compensation for the gallery of the new meeting-house, they granted Elderkin a tract of land “at Pocketannuk’s Cove’s mouth.”

Mr. James Fitch having provided nails for this meeting-house, to the value of £12, “wherein his forwardness for the use and benefit of the town, is owned and accepted,” liberty was granted him to take two hundred acres of land, as a satisfaction for the same, viz., “100 in the crotch between Quinebaug and Showtucket, and 100 as convenient as he can find it, on the other side of Showtucket river.”

The situation of this meeting-house was very imposing. Perched like a citadel upon its rocky height, with perpendicular ledges, or abrupt, stony declivities on either side, it presented a formidable and secure aspect, and was the center of vision to both ends of the town. The difficulty of access was such as to require climbing rather than walking. Without doubt the wayfarers often caught hold of shrubs by the path, to assist in pulling themselves up, and aged people felt their way, planting the staff firmly at each step.

In winter it must have been a cheerless sanctuary, even when the approach was not obstructed by icy foot-paths and incumbent snows. Churches in those early days were always comfortless in cold or stormy weather. They had no apparatus for warming; neither fire-place, stove,



nor furnace. The women carried heated stones or bricks in their muffs, and the men put their feet into fur bags, or moccasins, with which many of the seats were provided. At a later date, foot-stoves were used.

To this church, until all fear of the Indians had passed away, the men of the congregation were accustomed to repair with muskets upon their shoulders, which were not, however, carried into the house, but stacked without and kept under watch and guard by some person conveniently stationed for that purpose. The regular soldiers, or militia-men, went in last, and sat near the door, to be ready in case of alarm.

Swords were customarily worn when in full dress, by persons both in a civil and military capacity. Hats were made with a broad brim and a steeple crown. Perhaps two or three at the church door reverently took off a "black beaverett," though that was a costly article in those days, and considered quite magnificent. The poorer sort of people wore buff-caps, knit from woollen yarn, often in gay colors, and crowned with a heavy tassell. The coat was made with a long, straight body, falling below the knee, and with no collar, or a very low one, so that the stock or neck-cloth of spotless linen, fastened behind with a silver buckle, was fully displayed. In warm weather it was not considered indecorous to go to meeting in one's shirt-sleeves, or to take off the coat when there.

It is not probable that any one of the inhabitants assumed such a degree of state and dignity as to wear a ruff, though that article was in vogue among people of rank, as were also hand-ruffles. A conspicuous wrist-band with sleeve-buttons was more common.

It is uncertain whether the small clothes had then begun to *grow*, so as to reach below the knee, and to be fastened with knee-buckles, or not. The earlier mode was to have them terminate above the knee, and to be tied with ribbons. The common kind were made of dressed deer's leather. Petticoat trowsers of striped linsey-woolsey, the leg short and loose, were a customary article of every-day dress among the common people.

Red woollen stockings were much admired. The shoes were coarse, clumped, square-toed, and adorned with enormous buckles. If any boots made their appearance, prodigious was the thumping as they passed up the aisles, for a pair of boots were then expected to last a man's life. The tops were short, but very wide; formed, one might suppose, with a special adaptation to rainy weather,—collecting the water as it fell, and holding an ample bath for the feet and ankles!

Wigs were not then common; it was at a later day that hats were trimmed with gold lace, and full-powdered wigs were worn, and scarlet roquelaurs adorned a few distinguished characters. Long hair was getting into vogue. It was combed back from the forehead, and gathered behind into a club or queue, wound with a black ribbon. A congregation of such men, in frugal, respectable attire, with their brave, manly brows, fronting

their minister, worshiping God upon the high rock that overlooked their settlement, must have been a solemn and majestic sight to superior beings.

But our great-grandmothers are also here : they come decently, but not gaudily dressed. They have finery, but they leave it at home on the Sabbath. The more respectable matrons have all a full dress of flowing brocade, embroidered stomachers, and hanging sleeves, but it is reserved for feasts and great civic occasions. They are dressed on the Sabbath, perhaps, in short gowns and stuff-petticoats, with white aprons of linen or muslin, starched stiff. The gown-sleeve is short, and they wear mittens extending to the elbow, and leaving the fingers with a part of the thumb bare. The cloak was short, with a hood to cover the head, and was called a riding-hood. The hood was thrown back in meeting, and those who wore bonnets took them off. The matrons wore caps, and the young women had their hair curled or otherwise dressed.

The feminine attire, though in general plain and somewhat uncouth, was of a purer type than some of the fashions of later generations. It might even be called graceful and becoming in comparison with the short waist, the low neck, the high head-cushion with its wings or lappets flaunting in the wind, and the huge calash, of the next century.

Rank, birth and station were held in high account, and customs of deference and precedence were carefully maintained. It is a fact not easily explained, that such stiff and stately notions should have been cherished in a community where there was so little disparity of wealth and comfort.

*Mr.* was a title of respect awarded only to those who held office in church or state, or were of the rank commonly called *gentlemen*. *Mrs.*, *Mistress*, *Dame*, and *Madam*, were the feminine titles of honor, bestowed charily and only in accordance with family rank, saintly character, and venerable age.

The minister was simply *Mr.* The title of *Reverend* was seldom bestowed, except in such phrases as *our reverend pastor*. Church-members almost invariably called each other brother and sister.

Goodman and Goodwife were in common use. Goodey was sometimes heard. Gaffer and Gammer, old Saxon words of address to the aged, are not found on our records. Neighbor was a common adjunct. Parents were uniformly called daddy and mammy, even by people of mature age.

It can not be doubted that an able scholar and expert penman like *Mr. Fitch* would keep an ample and accurate record of his little church in the wilderness. Unfortunately no such record is to be found. One document, however, belonging to the period of his ministry, having been put in print, is extant, and of great interest. This is the Covenant made, or renewed,



by the church on the day of the public Fast in the spring of the year 1676, while the war with Philip and the Narragansetts was yet in progress, and the hearts of the people were solemnized by a succession of desolating judgments.

“We intend, (says Mr. Fitch,) God willing, to take that very daye solemnly to renew our covenant in our ehureh state, according to the example in Ezra’s time, and as was sometime practised in Hartford congregation by Mr. Stone, not long after Mr. Hooker’s death. If other churehes doe not see cause to doe the same, yet wee hope it will not bee offensive; but doe verily conclude if that be rule for practice, this is a time when the Providence of God does in a knocking and terrible manner call for it.”\*

This Covenant renewed is one of the most intensely searching, spiritual and apostolic documents to be found in our New England annals. It is admirable as a composition, and in this respect likewise creditable to its reverend author.†

It contained the following specific engagements:

1. That all children from 8 or 9, to 13 years of age, should be presented in the public Congregation every Lord’s Day to be catechised.
2. That after 13 years of age, while they remained under the family government of parents or others, they should attend a private meeting of religious instruction provided for them.
3. That when grown up and at their own disposal, they should be required to take hold of the Covenant of their Fathers, or at least should use means to prepare themselves for it; if negligent in this particular they were to be admonished; and if obstinately so, to be “cut off from the Congregation by the dreadful ordinance of excommunication.”
4. That, as parents were commonly too indulgent to their children, and negligent in admonishing and restraining them, the Church should appoint certain Brethren to take notice of the behaviour of young persons, warning and admonishing both them and their parents, at first in private, but if that were ineffectual, to make public complaint of them.
5. That the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper should be observed once in six weeks.
6. That Brethren of the Church should solemnly pledge themselves to rebuke and admonish one another faithfully according to Christ’s order, taking notice of all offensive behaviour, and suffering no sin to rest unreprieved upon a brother.
7. That this Covenant should be publiely read once every year on a day of fasting and prayer, and that it should be enjoined on their children to do the same.

This Covenant appears to have been faithfully rehearsed before the church, agreeably to the last specification, and confirmed or acquiesced in for thirty years.

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\* Letter to the Council, March 13th. Conn. Col. Rec., 2, 417.

† A printed copy is lodged in the Pastoral Library of the First Society. See also App. to Gilman’s Bi-centennial Discourse, and Sermon by Rev. H. P. Arms, Norwich Jubilee, p. 254.

It was reviewed by a committee of the church, Nov. 10, 1706, and three clauses of limitation and explanation affixed to it, which, on being presented to the church, "passed with a very full vote." These provisos were as follows:

1. "Whereas it is said in y<sup>e</sup> first particular of y<sup>e</sup> Covenant, y<sup>e</sup> Children shall be presented every Lord's day to be Catechised,—The Brethren of this Church do now see cause to allow y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Children shall be Catechised upon a week day."

2. "Whereas it is said, The Church doth appoint some Brethren to take notice of such children &c.—The Brethren doe now agree to suspend acting according to sd particular, for ye present, and untill they see good cause and reason for it."

3. "Respecting ye Third Particular in sd Covenant ye Brethren look upon it to be this, That ye persons therein intended shall be exhorted and excited privately and publicly to take hold of the Covenant of their Fathers; or at least y<sup>t</sup> they be in ye use of all gospel means to prepare for the same."

This instrument was again discussed and sifted at a church meeting, June 30, 1709, and a declaration made to this effect: That they and their children were bound to the performance of the duties enjoined in the Covenant, because they were required by the Word of God, but they were not bound by virtue of said Covenant; and that they would continue in the faithful performance of those duties, as explained and limited in 1706, but the reading of the Covenant might henceforth be discontinued.

Difficulties were soon experienced with respect to collecting the minister's rates. It had been arranged that every inhabitant should himself carry in his proportion annually, on or before the 20th of March, and for a time this mode answered well. But after a few years the deficiencies became so progressive and obvious as to call for the rebuke and interference of the town.

Jan. 7, 1686.

Whereas the Select men and some others have presented to us the great need, reason and necessity for us to consider of some suitable but thorough way of doing what ye law of God and man and duty obliges to, viz. the discharge of that obligation wee lye under with respect to the maintenance of our Rev<sup>d</sup> minister, and in that it appearing unto us that ye great lenitie of the Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. Fitch towards some is too much abused and in that many are got into a way of slightiness and remissness in making of due payment not only what is their just due but allsoe of what they are able, now therefore that we might all be more thorow soe as the work of God may not fail amongst us tis now unanimously agreed that for time to come the rate be put into the Collectors hands and each man to account with them and no man to be cleared until by the Collectors the rate be crossed and each one to clear his rate by the first of Feb. or March annually.

To be payed one third in wheat at 4s. per bu. one third in rye or pease at 3s. and one third in Indian corn at 2s, or what is equivalent.

At a subsequent period the town made an attempt to support the ministry by monthly contributions, but it ended in a return to the legal com-



pulsory mode. As a general rule, the collectors were instructed to leave out such poor men and widows as they should judge ought to be exempted from the rate.

In 1694, Mr. Fitch was suddenly disabled from preaching by a stroke of the palsy. This led to the following action :

At a town meeting Sept. 12, 1694.

Inasmuch as it hath pleased God to lay his afflicting hand upon our Reverend pastor Mr. James Fitch that at present he is disabled with respect to the work of the ministry among us—Wherefore the towne appoint Left. Thomas Leffingwell, Left. William Baekus, Simon Huntington Sen<sup>r</sup>. Thomas Adgate and Richard Bushnell a Committee to treat with Mr. Jabez Fitch with respect unto his succeeding of his father in the work of the ministry among us.

Mr. Jabez Fitch had just completed his course of study at Cambridge, and was twenty-two years of age. He consented to occupy the pulpit of his father on trial. A vote was passed "to pay the charge of sending for him from the Collidge," and a rate allowed for his salary. After remaining with the people more than a year, the town declared themselves well satisfied and invited him to become their permanent minister. He declined a settlement, though his reasons are not found on record. A second invitation was extended to him in August, 1696, but with no better success. It is probable that he wished for a longer course of preparation before taking charge of a parish.\*

After Mr. Jabez Fitch, several other candidates were tried. The most popular was Mr. Henry Flint, a graduate of Harvard in 1693. His ministry was so highly acceptable and useful, that a record was made in the town books, acknowledging him as a special gift of Providence, in the following words :

"The good providence of God succeeding our endeavours hath sent Mr. Flint unto us, for which we have reason to bless God, and doe desire he may abide with us half a year more or less, that he may have further tryall of us, and wee of him ;—and that he may stay as long as may be judged expedient for probation."

The next April, by "a full and free vote," he was invited to settle as a permanent pastor, upon the following pecuniary conditions:

#### TERMS OFFERED TO MR. FLINT IN APRIL, 1697.

Fifty-two pounds per year and his board while he remains without family. When he hath a family, 60 loads of wood annually and 70 pounds: that is 50 pounds in money and 20 in work or grain. If it please God to prolong his life after the death of Mr. Fitch then to increase his salary as his circumstances may need and as it shall be

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\* Mr. Jabez Fitch was subsequently elected Tutor and Fellow of Harvard College, which may be considered honorable testimony in favor of his scholarship. In 1703 he was ordained at Ipswich as colleague of the Rev. John Rogers, but removed afterward to Portsmouth, N. H., where he died in 1746.

esteemed the providence of God enableth the town. One half the annual salary to be paid Dec. 1 and the other May 1.—150 acres of land to be given to him at Plain Hills.

These offers were not accepted. They were repeated in September, and again declined. The correspondence was not recorded, but left on file, and in the lapse of time has disappeared, leaving us in ignorance of the grounds of Mr. Flint's refusal.\* Not long afterward, a special rate was levied to defray "the expense of sending hither and thither for ministers, and also to pay arrears due to Mr. Jabez Fitch, Mr. Emory, Mr. Morgan and Mr. Flint."

Aug. 29, 1698. The preamble of a vote alludes to the melancholy fact that the town is "yet destitute of a preaching minister;" and nine persons were designated as a committee, who, in concert with the Rev. Mr. Fitch, were authorized to look out for a pastor.

This reference to Mr. Fitch shows that his mind still retained its vigor, and that his people were in the habit of resorting to him for counsel and direction. Nor were they unmindful of his support. After he was disabled from service, a rate was annually collected for his use, amounting to forty, fifty, and one year to seventy pounds. There can be little doubt that he was favored also with many free-will offerings, and that his people were studious to please and gratify him in the choice of a successor.

During this interval, measures were again taken for enlarging and repairing the meeting-house. A *Leanto* was added, in which several new pews were made, and these not being sufficient to accommodate the increasing congregation, leave was given to twelve persons, who petitioned to that effect, "to build a seat on the Leanto beams, for their convenient sitting on the Lord's dayes." All these improvements being completed, in March, 1698, the Townsmen and Goodman Elderkin, the carpenter, were engaged to arrange the pews into eight classes, according to their dignity. This being done, five of the oldest and most respected inhabitants, viz.: Lt. Thomas Leffingwell, Lt. William Backus, Deacon Simon Huntington, Thomas Adgate, Sen., and Serg. John Tracy, were directed to seat the people with due regard to rank: "the square pue to be considered first in dignity; the new seats and the fore seats in the broad ally next, and alike in dignity;" and so on through the eight classes.

In 1702 the house was again reseated, and "a paper vote" was taken who should sit in the square pew and the seat next to it, and the persons so seated were to arrange the remainder of the inhabitants.

A similar custom prevailed in all the settlements. When the meeting-

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\* Rev. Henry Flint never settled over a parish. He was Tutor in Harvard College from 1705 to 1754, and died Feb. 13, 1760, aged 84.

Mass. Hist. Coll., 10, 165. Sprague's Annals, 1, 116.



house was finished, a committee was appointed to "dignify the seats," and establish the rules for seating the people.

Usually the square pew nearest the pulpit was the first in dignity, and next to this came the second pew and the first long seat in front of the pulpit. After these the dignity gradually diminished as the seats receded from the pulpit. If the house was furnished, as in some instances, with square pews, on each side of the outer door, fronting the pulpit, these were equal to the second or third rank in dignity. The front seat in the gallery and the two highest pews in the side galleries were also seats of considerable dignity.

The rules for seating were formed on an estimate of age, rank, office, estate list, and aid furnished in building the house. These lists were occasionally revised, and the people reseated, at intervals probably of three or four years.

Frequent disputes and even long-continued feuds were caused by this perplexing business of seating a congregation according to rank and dignity.

Various incidental allusions and items of expenditure furnish hints that assist the imagination in reconstructing this old meeting-house on the hill. It had leantos or wings on two sides, a porch to shelter the door in front; was furnished partly with pews and partly with benches; had a double gallery, with corner seats for the tithing-man, overlooking the whole audience; and was crowned with a pyramid for a steeple or spire.\* The windows were probably formed with lead casements, and panes of glass diamond-shaped.†

Though standing on a high platform, it was partially sheltered by clumps of rock, covered with shrubs and trees, that bristled the surface of the hill at a short distance east and west of the building. We may suppose that it faced the Green, and presented an appearance not unlike the design on page 129.

In the latter part of 1698, Mr. Joseph Coit was engaged to supply the pulpit, and after a few months probation, was invited to settle. The committee who communicated this resolution to Mr. Coit, received from him an answer, which they reported in town meeting, in the following words:

"We have received a writing from Mr. Coit, in which he doth expressly declare his disagreement from Norwich church, and consequently he can not walk with them, for how can two walk together, if they be not agreed?—But he that in matters controver-

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\* There was an order in 1705 "to mend the pyramid and close the leanto roofs where they join to the body of the house."

† Windows of this kind long remained in a few old buildings in Norwich. They were small and of the same form as the panes of glass,—a rhomb, or diamond-shaped. Sash casements, and glass with square corners, were of later introduction.

sial doth set up his own opinion in opposition to the Synod Book, and a cloud of witnesses, will be in great danger to wander from the way of peace and truth. But as for us, let us please one another, in that that is good, and may be for edification. Voted."

Mr. John Woodward was their next candidate, and a vote was passed to "call him to office." He accepted this call, and was ordained in October, 1699.

The church organization in the days of Mr. Fitch not only extended over the nine-miles-square, but took in the new settlements of Windham and Canterbury. Mr. Woodward's parish was at first of the same extent. The church records now extant begin with his ministry. The first persons who, after his ordination, "Publicly owned ye Covenant of Grace," were—

Mr. John Fitch, of Windham.

Mr. Joseph Bradford.

Abigail, ye wife of Brother Thomas Baldwin.

Jabez Perkins.

Isaac Lawrence.

This accession was in 1700. The same year, Mr. Fitch above named was received into full communion, as were also Thomas Baldwin and John Birchard.

The first child baptized by Mr. Woodward was

Margaret ye Daughter of Brother John Elderkin, 2 d. 12 m. 1700.

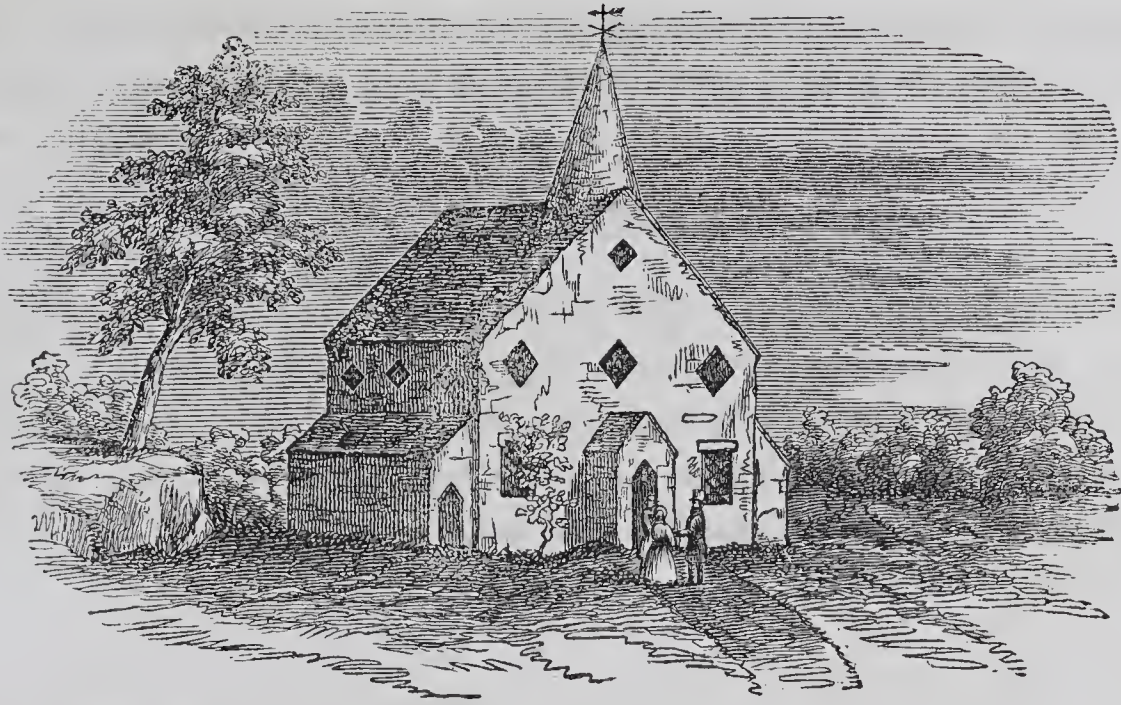
This in our style would be Feb. 2, 1701. A comparison of births and baptisms shows that children were then baptized at an early date, generally the first or second Sabbath after birth, being presented, when the rite was performed in public, by the father only.

The town having agreed to provide Mr. Woodward with a parsonage, purchased the house and home-lot of Samuel Huntington for his accommodation. It was the former residence of Capt. James Fitch, and sold by him at the time of his removal to Canterbury. Mr. Huntington was now preparing to remove to Lebanon, and therefore willing to part with his recent purchase. Out of the lot the town reserved an acre and a half for "a common burial place." This was soon opened for interments, and, with an adjoining lot since purchased, is still used as the Society Burial Ground.

In 1715 the town ordered this new burial-place to be surveyed, and its boundaries marked by mere-stones. It remained long uninclosed. The first persons known to have been interred here were Deacon Simon Huntington, and his grandson of the same name, a young man who was killed by the bite of a rattlesnake. According to tradition, the venomous serpent darted its fangs into his foot while he was mowing in the meadow, near the spot where he was interred. The weather was hot, the blood of



## CHURCH ON THE HILL,—1676-1715.



the youth inflamed with exercise, and the poison exhibited its deadly power almost instantaneously. His body became swollen, his flesh turned purple, and he died in a few hours.

Head-stones of rough granite, standing as sentinels to these graves, have their inscriptions still legible, and, with a similar memorial to the memory of Thomas Adgate, are the oldest grave-stones in the town.

DEACON SI  
MON HUNT  
INGTON DY  
ED JVNE ye  
28. 1706  
Æ. 77.

HERE LIES  
THE BODY OF  
DEACON THOMAS  
ADGET WHO  
DIED JVLY 1707  
IN ye 87th YEAR  
OF HIS AGE.

SIMON  
HUNTINGTON  
DYED JVLY  
29. 1707  
AGED 21  
YEARS.

Three others of the first proprietors were interred in this ground, and have their graves indicated by legibly inscribed stones: Thomas Water-

man, John Post, and Stephen Gifford. The first Thomas Leffingwell was undoubtedly buried here, but he has no memorial.

Before the purchase by the town of this Huntington lot, the only place in Norwich known to have been used as a cemetery was that which is called the

#### POST AND GAGER BURIAL GROUND.

Sarah, the wife of Thomas Post, died in March, 1661, and is supposed to have been the first person who deceased after the settlement of the town. She was buried on the home-lot of her husband, and the place of her interment was soon after sequestered and appropriated by the town authorities, for the common burial-place of the inhabitants. It was recorded Dec. 16, 1661.

##### Memorandum.

The Towne hath purchased a burying place of Thomas Post, vide a parcell of land eight rod one way and five and a half rod the other way in the home lott of the said Thomas Post towards the reare of his lott adjoining to the west side of goodman Gadgers lott, the said Thomas Post allowing a highway of six feet broad to the burying place.

To this area an addition was afterward made from the adjoining lot of John Gager, and in 1693 the burying-place was recorded as an irregular oblong plot, the extreme length eleven rods, and the greatest breadth seven.

In 1697 the town granted to Samuel Gager "twelve acres of land on Connecticut Plains, in consideration of the land taken out of his father's home-lot for a burial-place."

The Post home-lot remained in the possession of the family for one hundred and twenty-five years. It was then sold by Joseph Post of Lebanon to Ezekiel Barrett. The deed of conveyance, dated April 14, 1775, after describing the bounds, has this clause:

"Excluding about 32 rods of land within the said bounds, belonging to the town of Norwich, being the old burying ground, with liberty of a pent way across my other land, from the town street to the above bargained premises, to pass and repass."

This is perhaps the latest record respecting the old Grave Yard. It seems never to have been fenced or separated from the adjoining lots, and becoming gradually identified with them, has been occupied as private property.

After the year 1700, very few interments were made in this ground. The Gager family lay in a group near the south-east part of the plot. Several rude head-stones, with initials and perhaps a date, were formerly to be seen here, but the only regular grave-stone known to have been set in this burial-place was that of Mr. Samuel Gager, who died in 1740, and



in accordance with his special request was laid here by the side of his ancestors. His monumental slab, with a broad-winged face graven at the top, and overshadowing the inscription, was standing, though in a broken and leaning condition, tottering to its fall, in the year 1825, when the following epitaph was taken from it:

By the Bodies of his Parents

Here lies the Body of

MR. SAMUEL GAGER.

A steady counsellor, a friend to piety ;  
was an enemy of vice, a lover of  
pure public worship, and being blessed  
with long life left this world with  
a comfortable hope of life eternal,  
on the 11th day of June 1740,  
In the 86th year of his age.

A few fragments are all that now remain of this stone, and no other inscribed blocks, or even the suggestive memorials of grassy hillocks, remain to indicate the treasures that have here been deposited.

In very few instances are the graves of the first generation of our settlers distinguished by coeval monuments. The men of that age, encompassed with labors and privations, exhausted in laying the foundations of society, had no leisure to cultivate the monumental arts, and rear tombs and columns over their falling companions. But the more favored inhabitants of a later day, the prosperous sons of these laborious fathers, have a debt of grateful reverence to pay, which should lead them to preserve the sacred dust from dishonor and cherish with reverent awe the sepulchres of the fathers.

An opinion has been current of late years, that the persons interred in this ancient Cemetery were principally friendless people, infants, Indians, and a few individuals of the Post, Gager, and other neighboring families, that died soon after the settlement. But where then, it may be asked, are we to look for the graves of nearly the whole of the first generation of settlers? The second ground was not opened for interments till forty years after the settlement. It would be a very moderate computation to assume that during this period the deaths of all ages in the town-plot averaged three per year,—more probably it was four or five,—and we know of no other place where even one of them was laid but in this common burial-ground.

Several of the proprietors emigrated to new towns in the neighborhood, but of those who were undoubtedly laid in the grave at Norwich, and who died before 1700, we may name the following:

William Backus, the elder, dying before 1663.

Francis Griswold, 1671.

Major John Mason, and his wife, Mrs. Anna Mason, both dying in 1672.

Capt. John Mason, son of the Major, fatally wounded at the Narragansett fort fight in December, 1675, and dying in 1676.

John Bradford, 1675.

Samuel Hyde, 1677.

William Hyde, 1682.

Nehemiah Smith, 1685.

Lieut. Thomas Tracy, 1685.

John Elderkin, 1687.

Thomas Bliss, 1688, and his son,

Thomas Bliss, Jr., 1681.

Jonathan Royce, 1689.

John Olmstead, the first physician of the town, 1689.

Hugh Calkins, 1690.

The first Christopher Huntington, 1691.

John Baldwin, (unknown.)

Richard Edgerton, 1692.



## CHAPTER X.

TOWN CLERKS. PATENT. NEIGHBORING TOWNS. MAJOR FITCH.

JOHN BIRCHARD has been already mentioned as the first Town Clerk or Recorder of Norwich. The second, and first of whose appointment any record has been found, was Christopher Huntington, elected in 1678, and retained in office until his death in 1691. Richard Bushnell was chosen his successor in December of that year, and between him and Christopher Huntington, 2d, the son of the former Christopher, the office alternated irregularly, to the 6th of December, 1726, when Isaac Huntington, the son of the second Christopher, was chosen to the clerkship, and retained the office till removed by death in 1764. During this period of thirty-five years, at the annual meetings, the question was regularly put by the moderator—"Will the town now proceed to the choice of a Clerk?"—and uniformly decided in the negative; it being understood that the then incumbent was to be continued until a successor was appointed.

After the death of Isaac Huntington, the clerkship was assigned for one year to Benjamin Huntington, Senr., of the same generation with Isaac, but the next year it came back to the family of Isaac, and was awarded successively to his son Benjamin, and his grandson Philip, and his great-grandson Benjamin, continuing in this line to the year 1830, when the records were removed to Chelsea, and a Clerk chosen from that society. Thus six generations of Huntingtons, in a right line, held the clerkship, from 1678 to 1830,—152 years; with a single exception in 1778, when Samuel Tracy was chosen to office for one year.\*

The Town Clerk was also generally, if not uniformly, the Clerk of the First Ecclesiastical Society, from the first formation of that society, as distinct from the town, to the year 1828.

In 1684, the list of estate as returned to the General Court was £6,265. Number of taxable persons, 115.

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\* The experience of New Haven furnishes a similar instance of perpetuity in office. Three successive Samuel Bishops—father, son and grandson—held the office of Town Clerk of New Haven for 85 years, from 1717 to 1801. Elisha Munson, nephew of the last of these Samuel Bishops, who had acted as his clerk, succeeded him, and continued in office till 1832. The four held the office 116 years.

In 1685, a patent was obtained which confirmed to the town the original tract of nine miles square, to be an entire township, "according to the tenor of East Greenwich, in Kent, in free and common soccage, and not in capite, nor by Knight's service."

## PATENT

### OF THE TOWN OF NORWICH, A. D. 1685.

Whereas the General Court of Connecticut have forever granted unto the proprietors and Inhabitants of the Towne of Norwich all those lands, both meadows and uplands, within these abuttments (viz.) from the mouth of Tradeing-cove Brooke the line to run as the Brooke to the head of the Brooke to a white oake marked N: and from thence west northwesterly to a great pond to a black oake marked N: which stands neere the mouth of the great Brooke that runs out of the pond to Norwich river, which is about seven miles from the said Tradcing Cove; and from thence the line runns North noreast nine miles to a Black oake standing by the river side on the south of it, a little above maumcagway, and from thence the line runs south southeasterly nine miles to a white oake standing by a brooke marked N: and then the line runs south southwesterly nine miles to a white oake neere Robert Allyn and Thomas Rose's Dwelling houses, which tree is marked N: and from thence westerly as New London Bounds runs to Mohegan river, the whole being nine miles square, the said land haveing been by purchase or otherwise lawfully obtayned of the Indian natives proprietors.—And whereas, the said Inhabitants and proprietors of the s<sup>d</sup> Norwich in the Colony of Connecticutt have made application to the Governo<sup>r</sup> and Company of the s<sup>d</sup> Colony of Connecticutt assembled in Court May 25<sup>th</sup>, 1685, that they may have a patent for the confirmation of the afore<sup>sd</sup> land, so purchased and granted to them as aforesaid, and which they have stood seized, and quietly possessed of for many years late past, without interruption. Now for a more full confirmation of the aforesd unto the present proprictors of the s<sup>d</sup> Towneship of Norwich in their possession and injoyment of the premises, know yee that the s<sup>d</sup> Governour and Company assembled in Generall Court according to the Commission Granted to them by his magestic's charter, have given and granted and by these presents doe give, grant Rattific and confirme unto Mr. James Fitch sen<sup>r</sup>, Capt. James Fitch, Mr. Benjamine Brewster, Licut. Thomas Tracy, Lieut. Tho. Leffingwell, Mr. Christopher Huntington, Mr. Simon Huntington, Ensign William Backus, Mr. Thomas Waterman, Mr. John Burchard and Mr. John Post, and the rest of the said present proprietors of the township of Norwich, their heirs, successors and assigns forever; the aforesaid parcell of land as it is Butted and Bounded, together with all the woods, meadows, pastures, ponds, waters, rivers, islands, fishings, huntings, fowlcings, mines, mineralls, quarries, and precious stones, upon or within the said tract of land, and all other proffitts and comodities thereunto belonging, or in any wayes appertayning; and Doe also grant unto the aforesd Mr. James Fitch, sen<sup>r</sup>, Capt. James Fitch, Mr. Benjamin Brewster, Lieut. Thomas Tracy, Lieut. Thos. Leffingwell, Mr. Christopher Huntington, Mr. Simon Huntington, Ensign Wm. Backus, Mr. Thomas Waterman, Mr. John Birchard, and Mr. John Post, and the rest of the proprietors, Inhabitants of Norwich, their heirs, successors and assigns forever, that the fores<sup>d</sup> tract of land shall be forever hereafter deemed, reputed and be an intire towneship of itself—to have and to hold the said tract of land and premises, with all and singular their appurtenances, together with the priviledges and immunities and franchises herein given and granted unto the say<sup>d</sup> Mr. James Fitch sen<sup>r</sup>, Capt. James Fitch, Mr. Benjamine Brewster,



Lieut. Thomas Tracy, Lieut. Thomas Leffingwell, Mr. Christopher Huntington, Mr. Simon Huntington, Ensign Wm. Backus, Mr. Thomas Waterman, Mr. John Birchard and Mr. John Post, and other the present proprietors, Inhabitants of Norwich, their heirs successors, and assigns for ever, and to the only proper use and behoofe of the sayd Mr. James Fitch sen<sup>r</sup>, Capt. James Fitch, Mr. Benjamine Brewster, Lieut. Thomas Tracy, Lieut. Thomas Leffingwell, Mr. Christopher Huntington, Mr. Simon Huntington, Ensign Wm. Backus, Mr. Thomas Waterman, Mr. John Birchard and Mr. John Post, and other proprietors, inhabitants of Norwich, their heirs, successors, and assigns for ever, according to the Tenor of East Greenwich in Kent, in free and common soccage and not in capitte, nor by Knite's service, they to make improvement of the same as they are capable according to the custom of the country, yielding, rendering, and paieing therefore to our sovereign Lord the king, his heirs and successors, his dues according to Charter. In witness whereof, we have caused the Seale of the Colony to be hercunto affixed this twenty-first of May, 1685, in the first yeare of the reigne of our sovereign lord James the Second, by the grace of God, of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the faith.

ROBERT TREAT, Governor.



March 30<sup>th</sup>, 1687, per order of Gov<sup>r</sup>. and Company of the Colony of Conncticut.

Signed pr

JOHN ALLYN, Secrety.

Entered in the pub. records, Lib. D : fo. 138, 139, Nov<sup>r</sup> 27<sup>th</sup>, 1685 : pr

JOHN ALLYN, Secrety.

Twelve Patentees were chosen by the town; but from some cause unknown, Thomas Adgate, who was one, is not named in the instrument as recorded on the town books. They will all be recognized as belonging to the original band of proprietors, with the exception of Capt. James Fitch and Mr. Benjamin Brewster.

In January, 1702, a fresh enrollment of the inhabitants was made, in connection with "An Act for the more equal Division of the Common Lands." This list seems to have been made with great care, and we may rely upon it as nearly accurate. It enumerates 9 surviving first proprietors, 76 accepted inhabitants, and 6 orphans under age, all entitled to share as first settlers. Twelve other persons, who had more recently settled in the township, were entered for half shares. This would give 97 freemen, or legal voters and proprietors, to the town. Probably the number of actual residents was considerably larger.

Jan : 31, 1701-2. The names of the first settlers now surviving are as followeth,—

The Rev. Mr. James Fitch.	(died 18 Nov. 1702.)
Lev't Thomas Leffingwell.	(d. 1710.)
Deacon Simon Huntington.	(d. 28 June, 1706.)
Deac. Thomas Adgate.	(d. 21 July, 1707.)
Levt. William Backus.	(d. 1721.)
John Post.	(d. 17 Nov. 1710.)
Thomas Post.	(supposed d. 5 Sept. 1701.)
John Reynolds.	(d. 22 July, 1702.)
Morgan Bowers.	(unknown.)

At this time a large proportion of the outlands had been already distributed, and were in a great measure occupied. All the better part of the inhabitants, in addition to their possessions in the town-plot, owned farms. Many of the sons of the first proprietors had settled on these paternal acres. The wide districts now forming the towns of Bozrah and Franklin, were then the Norwich farms. Several of these farm homesteads have descended by inheritance to the present day, and are claimed by virtue of the original town grant.

Before the year 1700, several flourishing towns were growing up around Norwich, most of them offshoots from her trunk and nourished with her life-blood.

A part of Preston was originally East Norwich. Lebanon, Windham, Mansfield, Canterbury, Plainfield and Griswold were daughters of Norwich, or at least drew a large proportion of their early settlers from her bounds.

Though John Cates, an Englishman, is said to have erected the first habitation in Windham, as early as 1689, yet the legatees of Joshua Uncas were the first proprietors of the land, and fourteen of these (the whole number being but sixteen) were of Norwich. Those who claimed under these legatees, the Backuses, Bingham, Huntingtons, and other early settlers, were the men who actually founded Windham, changing the wild lands of Naubasetuck to a thriving plantation.

The first town meeting at Windham was held June 11, 1692. Among the town officers chosen on that occasion, seven are recognized as sons of Norwich proprietors, viz.: John Fitch, fourth son of Rev. James; Thomas Huntington, son of Christopher; Joseph Huntington, son of Simon; Samuel Hyde, Jonathan Hough, and John Royce.

Among the first planters we find also John Backus, Thomas Bingham, Samuel Birchard, Benjamin Armstrong, Jonathan Crane, Peter Cross, Samuel Gifford, William Moore, Robert Wade,—all removing thither from some part of the nine-miles-square.

Few persons of that period had more influence in this part of the colony than Captain, or as he was afterwards styled, Major Fitch. He was a noted friend and patron to the Indians, and after the death of Major Mason, possessed more sway over the sachems than any other individual, not excepting their other distinguished advocate, Capt. Samuel Mason. The signature of Owaneco, subsequent to the year 1680, was considered of no value unless countersigned by Capt. Fitch; the Sachem, with the consent of the General Court, having authorized him to act as his guardian.



(From a signature of 1682.)



Major Fitch stands forth remarkably prominent in connection with the landed interest of eastern Connecticut. He was noted as a land-surveyor, land-registrar, land-speculator, and a land-holder to an immense extent. By legislative grants, by purchase from other grantees, and intimate connection with the Indian sachems, he accumulated a vast number of acres. In 1684, he obtained from Owaneco the native right and title to a broad tract of unsettled land, comprised under the general name of "the Nipmug and Wabaquassuck countreys." The southern line of this territory, beginning at the Quinnabaug river, north of the present town of Brooklyn, and running west, was estimated at forty-five miles, and from this western point the line running north extended beyond the northern boundary of Massachusetts.

Out of this tract, the town of Pomfret was purchased of Capt. Fitch for thirty pounds. It was called the Mashamoquet Purchase, and consisted of fifteen thousand one hundred acres, which was assigned by Fitch to certain proprietors, May 5, 1686, the deed being countersigned by Owaneco and Josiah.

In 1687, Owaneco conveyed to Major Fitch, parcels of land in the towns of Plainfield and Canterbury, of such extent as also to be measured by miles. A mortgage deed, executed in favor of Simeon Stoddard of Boston, Nov. 19, 1691, maps out a portion of Major Fitch's accumulated land claims.

1st. A tract "in the crotch of the rivers Showtuckett and Queenabauge," a mile and a fourth on one river, and nearly three miles on the other, now the southern part of Lisbon. 2d. Four thousand acres, in two parts: two thousand on each side of the Quinebaug, in the present towns of Plainfield and Canterbury. 3d. Five thousand acres, in two parts, lying south of New Roxbury, alias Woodstock. 4th. A cultivated farm of two hundred acres in Preston.

Following Major Fitch by his various deeds on record, we might suppose that during a part of his life he changed his local habitation with every revolution of the sun. On one occasion he is spoken of as an inhabitant of Preston.

In 1697, he writes himself, "I, James Fitch of Norwich."

In 1698, "I James Fitch of Peagscomsuck."\*

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\* Deed recorded at Norwich.

In 1699, "I James Fitch of Kent, alias Peagscomset."\*

In 1701, "I James Fitch of Plainfield."†

In 1703, "I James Fitch of Canterbury."

But though Major Fitch had farms and dwelling-houses in several townships, and seems to have circulated freely through his possessions, he retained his connection with Norwich as a legal inhabitant down to the year 1697. He then removed his family to Peagscomsuck,‡ on the Quinebaug river,—a plantation that he designed should be called Kent. The name, however, obtained but a limited currency, and was soon changed to Canterbury. Of this town he was pre-eminently the founder. He purchased the land, made the first clearings, laid it out in farms and house-lots, and built himself the first barn and the first framed house within its limits. He drew after him from Norwich other substantial settlers: the names of Backus, Bradford and Tracy appearing early upon the annals of the town.

Canterbury and Plainfield grew up like twin plantations, side by side. Major Fitch was one of the first proprietors in each. Mr. Joseph Coit was the herald of the gospel to both communities, and for several years preached alternately at either place. Plainfield was incorporated in 1699; Canterbury, in 1703.

Major Fitch and his brother Daniel were highly esteemed as brave soldiers and experienced partizans in Indian warfare. In the summer of 1696, a band of Mohawks committed some depredations on the western towns in Massachusetts, and a rumor having reached Capt. Fitch that a party of them had been seen skulking about Woodstock, he hastened from his farm to Norwich, collected a band of whites and Mohegans, and plunged into the forests in pursuit of the enemy. From Woodstock, he sent a part of his force under his brother Daniel, to range the woods further to the west, which they did, scouring the country as far as Oxford, Worcester, and Lancaster.

Tradition and record give intimations of one defect in the character of the gallant Major. He could not always resist the temptation to convivial excess, but he appears to have had the Christian grace to acknowledge the fault when committed, and repent of it. He continued his connection with the Norwich church long after his removal to Canterbury, and perhaps till his death. He was under the temporary discipline of the Norwich church in 1704.

Yale College honors Major Fitch as one of its earliest patrons. He

\* Deed recorded at New London.

† At New London: deed to Massiah Harding and Richard Cooke, of Eastham,—1000 acres in Plainfield, Cooke sold to Elisha Payne.

‡ This was the Indian name of an island in the river, near which he settled.



contributed to the funds gathered for its first establishment, gave the glass and nails for the college edifice, and endowed it with 637 acres of land in the town of Killingly.

He was twice married, and had thirteen children. His first wife, Elizabeth Mason, died in 1684. He married, second, May 8th, 1687, Alice, daughter of Major William Bradford of Plymouth, and relict of Rev. William Adams of Dedham. She was sister of Thomas Bradford of Norwich, and mother of Rev. Eliphalet Adams of New London.

Major Fitch died in Canterbury, Nov. 10th, 1727. His youngest son, Jabez, born in 1702, was a respected inhabitant of Newent Society, where he filled the offices of justice, judge, and colonel.

## CHAPTER XI.

### BRIEF MEMORIALS OF THE PROPRIETORS AND THEIR DESCENDANTS.

WE have now reached the period when the first class of settlers disappear from the scene. One generation has passed away, and another is rapidly verging towards the down-hill of life.

Before dismissing this venerated band to their last resting-place, the few facts which have been ascertained respecting each proprietor will be rehearsed, with brief notices of his family, and glances at some of his descendants.

#### I. MAJOR JOHN MASON.

Every memoir of Mason is obliged to take him up at the prime of life, for of his birth,\* parentage, and early years, no certain information has been obtained. When he first appears in history, he is in the English army under Sir Thomas Fairfax, fighting in the Netherlands in behalf of the Dutch patriots, against the bigotry and tyranny of Spain.

He is supposed to have emigrated to this country in 1630, with Mr. Warham's company that sailed from Plymouth, England, March 20th, and arrived at Nantasket May 30th of that year.† But this can not be stated with absolute certainty, as he has not been actually traced on this side of the ocean before December, 1632, when he was engaged in a cruise with John Gallop, under a commission from the Governor and Magistrates of Massachusetts to search for a pirate called Dixy Bull, who had for some time annoyed the coast with petty depredations. He was then called *Lieutenant* Mason, but soon afterward attained the rank of Captain.‡ In 1634, he was one of a Committee appointed to plan the fortifications of Boston Harbor, and was specially employed in raising a battery upon Castle Island.

In March, 1635, he was the representative of Dorchester to the General Court, but in the latter part of the same year, or early in the next, removed

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\* That he was born about 1600, may be inferred from his age at the time of his death,—upwards of 70 in 1672.

† Prince's Chronology.

‡ Life of Mason, by Ellis.



with the major part of Mr. Warham's people to the Connecticut Valley. Here the emigrants planted themselves on the western bank of Connecticut river, above Hartford, and founded the pleasant and honorable town of Windsor.

With the residence of Capt. Mason at Windsor, all the stirring scenes of the Pequot war are connected. This was the great event of the early history of Connecticut, and the overshadowing exploit of Mason's life. He was instrumental in originating the expedition, formed the plan, followed out its details, fought its battles, clinched, as it were with iron screws, its results, and wrote its history. This war was begun and ended when Connecticut had only 250 inhabitants, comprised principally in the three towns of Hartford, Wethersfield and Windsor. Out of these Mason gathered a band of seventy men, and passing down Connecticut river, landed in the Narragansett country, and being joined by a band of friendly Indians, marched directly into the heart of the hostile territory, assailed the Pequots in their strongest fortress, destroyed it, laid waste their dwellings, and killed nearly half of the whole nation. This expedition occupied three weeks and two days. The skill, prudence, firmness and active courage displayed by Mason in this exploit, were such as to gain him a high standing among military commanders. From this period he became renowned as an Indian fighter, and stood forth a buckler of defence to the exposed colonists, but a trembling and a terror to the wild people of the wilderness.

In 1637, he was appointed by the General Court the chief military officer of the colony, his duty being "to train the military men" of the several plantations ten days in every year: salary, forty pounds per annum.\* At a later period, [1654,] he was authorized to assemble all the train-bands of the colony once in two years for a general review. The office was equivalent to that of Major-General. He retained it through the remainder of his life, thirty-five years, and during that time appears to have been the only person in the colony with the rank and title of *Major*.

When the fort at Saybrook was transferred by Col. Fenwick to the jurisdiction of the colony, Mason was appointed to receive the investment, and at the special request of the inhabitants he removed to that place and was made commander of the station. Here he had his home for the next twelve years.

The people of New Haven were not entirely satisfied with their location, and formed a design of removing to a tract of land which they had purchased on the Delaware river. In 1651, they proposed this matter to

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\* "The saide Capt. Mason shall have liberty to traine the saide military men in every plantation tenn dayes in every yeere, soe as it be not in June or July." Conn. Col. Rec., 1, 15.

Capt. Mason, urgently requesting him to remove with them, and take the management of the company. This invitation is a proof of the high opinion his contemporaries had formed both of his civil and military talents. The offers they made him were liberal, and he was on the point of accepting, when the Legislature of Connecticut interfered, entreating him not to leave the colony, and declaring that they could by no means consent to his removal. Finding that his presence was considered essential to the safety of Connecticut, he declined the offers of New Haven. If he went, there was no one left who could make his place good; neither had New Haven any person in reserve, who could fill the station designed for him, and therefore the projected settlement never took place. The active disposition of Mason, however, never lacked employment. There was scarcely a year in which he was not obliged to go on some expedition among the Indian tribes, to negotiate, or to fight, or to pacify their mutual quarrels. At one time, his faithful friend Uncas was in danger from a powerful league of the other tribes, but the seasonable preparations of Mason for his relief, frightened the foe into peace and submission. At another time, he was sent with arms and men to the assistance of the Long Island Indians, against Ninigrate, the powerful sachem of the Nanticks, who threatened them with extirpation. This service he gallantly performed; but only two years afterwards was compelled to appear again on that Island with a band of soldiers, in order to chastise the very Indians, mischievous and ungrateful, whom he had before relieved.

We find him, at the same time, and for several years in succession, holding various public offices, all arduous and important. He was Indian agent, Indian umpire, and the counselor of the government in all Indian concerns; captain of the fort, justice of the peace, and empowered to hold courts as a judge; a member likewise of two deliberative bodies, the Connecticut Legislature, and the Board of Commissioners of the United Colonies; Major-General of the militia at home, and the acting commander in all expeditions abroad. In 1660 he was chosen Deputy Governor, to which office he was annually re-elected for eight years, five under the old form, and three under the King's charter, which united Connecticut with New Haven. The same year he was actively employed, in conjunction with Mr. Fitch and others, in effecting the settlement of Norwich, and also in purchasing of the Mohegans a large tract of land, in behalf of the colony.

At this time also, for nearly two years, he performed all the duties of the chief magistrate of the colony,—Winthrop, the Governor, being absent in England, engaged in negotiations respecting the charter.

Thus the life of Mason on this continent may be distributed into four portions. The first was given to Dorchester, and the remainder in nearly equal parts to the three towns in Connecticut that he assisted in planting.



Lieutenant and Captain at Dorchester, five and a half years.

Conqueror of the Pequots, magistrate and major at Windsor, twelve years.

Captain of the fort, and Commissioner of the United Colonies at Saybrook, twelve.

Deputy Governor and Assistant at Norwich, twelve.

He was not chosen Deputy Governor after 1668, but continued in duty as an Assistant, and was present for the last time at the election in May, 1671.

Of the original band of Norwich purchasers, Mason was one of the earliest laid in the grave.\* He died Jan. 30, 1671-2. According to Trumbull, he was in the seventy-third year of his age. His last hours were cheered by the prayers and counsels of his beloved pastor and son-in-law, Mr. Fitch. Two years before, he had requested his fellow-citizens to excuse him from all further public services, on account of his age and infirmity; so that the close of his life, though overshadowed by suffering from an acute disease, was unharrassed by care and responsibility. There is no coeval record that points out his burial-place, but uniform tradition and current belief in the neighborhood, from generation to generation, leave no reason to doubt that he was interred where other inhabitants of that generation were laid, that is, in the Post and Gager Burial Ground, or First Cemetery of Norwich.

He had been for twelve years an inhabitant of Norwich. It was his chosen home, and no urgent motive can be assigned for his interment elsewhere. Moreover, it was mid-winter, when a traveling procession in a new country, with the imperfect accommodations of that period, would have been almost impracticable. Had he been removed, under such circumstances, to any other place for interment, (to Saybrook or Windsor, for example,) the event would have been of public notoriety throughout the colony, and must inevitably have been recorded somewhere in the annals of the day.

All the probabilities therefore are in favor of his having been buried in Norwich. And if so, where? Not in a quiet nook in some portion of his own ground, for solitary private interments were not common in those days, and if the renowned Capt. Mason had been entombed in his garden or his

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\* Richard Hendy had deceased before this period, but no prominent proprietor, except William Backus, Sen. The precise date of Mason's death is ascertained from a cotemporary journal kept by Rev. Simon Bradstreet of New London, whose record is as follows :

"Jan: 30, 1671 (O. S.) Major Jno. Mason who had severall times been Deputy Govern<sup>r</sup> of Connecticut Colony dyed. He was aged about 70. He lived the 2 or 3 last years of his life in Extreame misery with ye stone or strangury or some such desc ease. He dyed with much comfort and assur<sup>e</sup> it should be well with him." Hist. and Gen. Reg., 9, 46.

field, would all knowledge of the fact have been completely obliterated from history, memory, and tradition? Would his sons have sold their inheritance without recording the fact that it contained their father's sepulchre, and stipulating that his remains should be respected? We may take it for granted therefore that Mason was buried in the common place of sepulture with his friends and neighbors.\*

In that primitive cemetery, the only memorials erected in honor of the dead were a grassy hillock, and a block of unhewn granite at the head and foot of the grave. No squared pillars or chiseled inscriptions decorated this humble spot. The stones gradually sunk into the earth, or were removed by those that knew not they had any watch to keep; the graves wore away to a level with the field, and then a little below it, and long before the end of another century, the ploughshare and the seedsman passed over and obliterated every vestige of grave and monument from the place.

Mason is one of the prominent figures in our early history. He shines forth as a valiant soldier and a wise counselor. He was prudent, and yet enterprising; fertile in resources; prompt and heroic in the field of action. The natural ardor of his mind, fostered by early military adventures, and continually called into exercise by great emergencies, made him a fearless leader in war. Sturdy in frame, and hardy in constitution; regardless of danger, fatigue, or exposure; he was invaluable as a pioneer in difficult enterprises, and a founder of new plantations. He was also a religious man and a patriot; of virtuous habits, and moderate ambition. Though he sustained many high and honorable offices in the infant colony, he is best known by the simple title of *Captain*. Trumbull comprises his peculiar traits in these few words: "He was tall and portly, full of martial fire, and shunned no hardships or dangers in the defence and service of the colony."

His sign manual seems expressive of his massive person and bold decision of purpose.

1651  
Jn<sup>o</sup>. Mason

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\* This argument, seemingly unnecessary, is prompted by the doubts and surmises that have been broached respecting the place of Mason's burial. Such doubts appear to the author entirely baseless. They have originated, doubtless, from the absence of grave-stones and the obliteration of hillocks in this old burial-place. The meditative



Yet viewing the character of Mason at this distance of time, we become aware of some rigid and imperious features. Though faithful to his convictions of duty, he was stern and unrelenting in the execution of justice, and as a magistrate and commander, dictatorial and self-reliant.

Roger Williams, in his correspondence with Winthrop of New London,\* refers to Mason in terms which lead us to infer that the latter, as a neighbor, was not particularly acceptable to other plantations :

“ Since I mention Capt. Mason, worthy sir, I humbly beg of the Father of Lights to guide you in youre converse and neighbourhood with him.”

“ Sir, heape coales of fire on Capt. Mason’s head, conquer evil with good but be not cowardly and overcome with any evill.”

Again, alluding to dispatches that he had received from Capt. Mason, he says :

“ The letters are kind to myself but terrible to all these natives, especially to the sachims.”

Uncas and his tribe were peculiarly the wards and adherents of Mason, and he seemed pledged to defend them against all complaints. Several times he interfered to screen his favorite sachem from punishment, for his insolent bearing towards the neighboring settlements, or for his depredations upon private property ; but towards other native clans, Mason was often a severe and exacting ruler. In September, 1639, he broke up with ruthless determination a small settlement of the Pequots, whose only offence was, that they had huddled together at Pawcatuck, upon the skirt of their former domain, and were endeavoring to obtain a comfortable subsistence. With about forty of his own men, and a horde of Mohegans under the command of Uncas, he made a sudden descent upon the village, dispersed the terrified inhabitants, or took them prisoners, plundered and burnt the wigwams, destroyed all the goods and provisions that could not be removed, and returned with thirty canoes, taken from the natives and filled with their plunder. They found a harmless people, prospering by means of their corn-fields and fishing-boats ; they swept over the scene, and left nothing but flight, terror, and desolation.

It was probably an act of sagacious foresight, but not of true heroism. We would willingly blot it out of the history of our gallant captain. Yet it must be conceded that undue severity to the aborigines was then a part of the law of the land, and not a peculiarity in the character of Mason.

mind very naturally asks itself,—Can it be that this bold Connecticut pioneer has been left in this unnoticed spot for nearly 200 years, without a stone to mark his grave ? After wonder at this forgetfulness, comes a doubt of the fact. Yet there is but this one place pointed out by tradition, and this is sustained by all the attendant circumstances.

\* Winthrop Papers in Mass. Hist. Coll., 3d series, 9, 278. Letters of 1648-9.

We may be disposed to charge him with cruelty to a vanquished foe; but the same taint lies on most of the early colonists. He only shared in the ferocious character of the age, and we may add, in that misconception of the spirit of Christianity, which devoted its enemies to immediate and vindictive destruction.

Of the first marriage of Capt. Mason, no date or specification has been recovered. A memorandum in the old Church Book at Windsor gives the number of those who had died in the plantation before the year 1639, and mentions as one of them, *the Captain's wife*. No other inhabitant is known to have had at that time the title of Captain, and therefore this may be pronounced, without hesitation, the wife of Mason. In July, 1639, he was married to Anne Peck, who was the mother of the seven children recorded at Norwich, which list is supposed to comprise his whole offspring.

Mrs. Anne Mason died at Norwich, before her husband. A memorial sermon, preached by Mr. Fitch, represents her as a woman of eminent piety, and "gifted with a measure of knowledge above what is usual in her sex."

"I need not tell you, (says the preacher,) what a Dorcas you have lost; men, women and children are ready with weeping to acknowledge what works of mercy she hath done for them."\*

The family is registered at Norwich, with this heading: "The names and ages of the children of Major Mason." The day of the month is not given, nor the place of birth. The list is as follows:

Priscilla,	born in	October, 1641.
Samuel,	"	July, 1644.
John,	"	August, 1646.
Rachel,	"	October, 1648.
Anne,	"	June, 1650.
Daniel,	"	April, 1652.
Elizabeth,	"	August, 1654.

The first three were probably born in Windsor, the others at Saybrook.

Of this group, three were ingrafted into the Fitch family. Rev. James Fitch married for his second wife, in October, 1664, Priscilla Mason; John Mason, 2d, married Abigail Fitch; and James Fitch, 2d, married Elizabeth Mason, Jan. 1, 1676.

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\* Printed at Cambridge by Samuel Green in 1672. But neither the date of Mrs. Mason's death, nor the time when the sermon was preached, is stated. The title page simply refers to her death as preceeding that of her husband.

"A Sermon preached upon the occasion of the *Death and Decease* of that piously affected and truly religious Matron, Mrs. Anne Mason, sometime wife to Major Mason who not long after finished his course and is now at rest. By Mr. James Fitch, Pastor of the Church at Norwich."



Rachel Mason became the second wife of Charles Hill of New London. They were married June 12, 1678, and she died in less than a year afterward.

Anne Mason married, Nov. 8, 1672, Capt. John Brown of Swanzeey.

John Mason, second son of the Major, succeeded to his father's accommodations in Norwich.

This gallant young Captain was severely, and as it proved, fatally wounded in the great swamp fight at Narragansett, Dec. 19, 1675. It is probable that he was brought home from that sanguinary field by his Mohegan warriors on an Indian bier. His wounds never healed. After lingering several months, he died, as is supposed, in the same house where his father expired, and was doubtless laid by his side in the old obliterated grave-yard of the first-comers. Though scarcely thirty years of age at the time of his death, he stood high in public esteem both in a civil and military capacity. He had represented the town at three sessions of the Legislature, and was chosen an Assistant the year of his decease. In the probate of his estate before the County Court, he is called "the worshipful John Mason." The Rev. Mr. Bradstreet of New London records his death in these terms:

"My hon'd and dear Friend Capt. Jno. Mason one of ye magistrates of this Colony, and second son of Major Jno. Mason, dyed,"\* Sept. 18, 1676.

He left two young children: Anne, who married John Denison; and John, born at Norwich in 1673, afterward known as Capt. John Mason, being the third in lineal succession, who had borne the name and title. He is best known as an Indian claimant, visiting England to assert the rights of the heirs of Major Mason to those lands which the latter purchased as agent of the colony. His connection with this long Mohegan controversy, will bring him at another period within the range of our history.

The other sons of Major Mason, Samuel and Daniel, settled in Stonington, on an ample domain given by the colony to their father, near the border of Long Island Sound. Samuel was chosen an Assistant in 1683, and acquired the same military rank as his father, being known also as Major Mason. He was one of the four purchasers of Lebanon, but never removed thither. He died at Stonington, March 30, 1705, leaving four children, all daughters. His only son, John, died ten days before him, aged twenty-eight, and unmarried. The male branch in this line here became extinct, but the name was continued in the line of the oldest daughter, Anne, who married her cousin, the third John Mason, before mentioned.

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\* Hist. and Gen. Reg., 9, 46.

Lieut. Daniel Mason, the early schoolmaster of Norwich, died at Stonington, Jan. 28, 1736-7, in the eighty-fifth year of his age. His first wife was Margaret Denison of Roxbury, and his second Rebecca Hobart of Hingham. His oldest son, Daniel, married Dorothy Hobart, and settled in Lebanon, where he died, July 4, 1706, thirty years before the decease of his father, leaving only one child, an infant son, named Jeremiah, after his grandfather, Rev. Jeremiah Hobart.\*

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## II. REV. JAMES FITCH.

This venerated man died at Lebanon; a plantation in which he had taken great interest, and where several of his children had established their homes. In the quiet cemetery of that place, where almost a congregation of good and great men have since been gathered, he was laid to rest. The monumental tablet that marks his grave, has an elaborate Latin inscription, said to have been written by his son, the Rev. Jabez Fitch,\* that furnishes a judicious and comprehensive summary of his life and character.

### [TRANSLATION.]

In this tomb are deposited the remains of the truly Reverend Mr. James Fitch: born at Bocking, in the county of Essex, England, December 24, 1632: who, after he had been well instructed in the learned languages, came to New England at the age of 16, and passed seven years under the instruction of those eminent divines, Mr. Hooker and Mr. Stone. Afterward he discharged the pastoral office at Saybrook for 14 years, from whence, with the greater part of his church, he removed to Norwich, and there spent the succeeding years of his life, engaged in the work of the Gospel, till age and infirmity obliged him to withdraw from public labor. At length he retired to his children at Lebanon, where scarcely half a year had passed, when he fell asleep in Jesus, Nov. 18,† 1702, in the 80th year of his age. He was a man, for penetration of mind, solidity of judgment, devotion to the sacred duties of his office, and entire holiness of life, as also for skill and energy in preaching, inferior to none.

Mr. Fitch is placed by Mather in his *second classis* of New England ministers,—consisting of “young scholars, whose education for their

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\* Mrs. Dorothy Mason subsequently married Hezekiah Brainerd of Haddam. The devoted missionary to the Delaware Indians (David Brainerd) was one of the children of this connection.

† Mass. Hist. Coll., 10, 68.

‡ In the town book at Lebanon, Nov. 19 is the recorded day of Mr. Fitch's death. Slight discrepancies in the cotemporaneous records of deaths frequently occur, and may sometimes result from one giving the day of death, and another that of interment.



designed ministry not being finished, came over from England with their friends, and had their education perfected in this country before the College was come into maturity enough to bestow its laurels.”\*

It appears that the father of the family had deceased, and that the mother with several sons emigrated to this country in 1638. The exact number of the brothers that came over has not been definitely ascertained. Thomas, Joseph and James can be clearly traced. But there was a coeval Samuel Fitch, schoolmaster at Hartford, that married, in 1650, the widow of the first William Whiting, and subsequently removed to Milford, who may have been another brother.†

Thomas Fitch settled in Norwalk, where, in the valuation of estates in 1665, he was the highest upon the list.‡ He is also the first person mentioned in the Patent of that town, granted in 1685, and from him in a line of three generations, each bearing the same name, Gov. Thomas Fitch, who occupied the chair of state in Connecticut from 1754 to 1766, was descended.

Joseph Fitch can be traced as a landholder, or as a temporary inhabitant, at Norwalk, Hartford, and Northampton; but he ultimately settled at Windsor, upon a valuable farm near the boundary line of the present towns of East Hartford and East Windsor. John Fitch, whose name is honorably connected with the invention of steam navigation, was a descendant of Joseph, and born Jan. 21, 1743, near the place where his ancestor settled, on the Windsor part of the farm.

Of Mr. James Fitch, our immediate subject, we have a statement of his birth, emigration at the age of sixteen, and seven years of theological instruction at Hartford, and this is all that is known of him previous to his ordination at Saybrook in 1646. At this ceremony, Mr. Hooker of Hartford was present, but the imposition of hands was by two of the brethren appointed by the church to that office. The same form was also used at the same place, at the ordination of the Rev. Mr. Thomas Buckingham in 1670.§ Mr. Hooker had himself been ordained in the same manner at Cambridge. This was a Congregational ordination in the strictest sense of the term.

The element of independence thus wrought into the original structure of Mr. Fitch's church, was brought with it to Norwich, and has never died out. Though not subsequently asserting its rights in the special form of ordination, the congregational principle struck its roots deep, and has ever

\* *Magnalia*, 1, 215. Hart. Edition.

† In Westcott's *Life of John Fitch*, it is said that five brothers emigrated, but the authority seems only traditional.

‡ Hall's *History of Norwalk*.

§ Trumbull's *Conn.*, 1, 299.

since maintained its ground, giving something of a distinctive character to the church in its whole course.\*

When a part of Mr. Fitch's church decided, in 1660, to remove to Norwich, it was a subject of some contention between the two parties whether he should stay with those who were to remain, or go with those who should remove. He was greatly beloved by all, and each side claimed him. After solemn prayer and long deliberation, Mr. Fitch decided that it was his duty to keep with the majority, and this brought him to Norwich. Soon after his removal thither, the people of Hartford invited him to become their minister, thinking, probably, that the hardships of a new settlement, and the prospect of extensive usefulness in a wider and more elevated sphere, might induce him to leave his flock. The only reply he sent to their invitation was this: "With whom then shall I leave these few poor sheep in the wilderness?"

The oldest Election Sermon in Connecticut, of which any record has been discovered, was preached by Mr. Fitch, in 1674, from this text: "For I, saith the Lord, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her."†

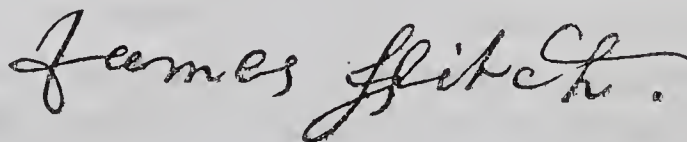
Other products of his pen, yet extant, are: a sermon on the death of Anne, wife of Major Mason, 1672, and a small volume printed at Boston in 1683, with an Introduction by Rev. Increase Mather, and comprising three distinct tracts, viz.:

A Treatise on the reformation of those evils which have been the procuring cause of the late judgments upon New England.

The Norwich Covenant, which was solemnly renewed March 22, 1675.

A brief Discourse proving that the First Day of the week is the Christian Sabbath.

The multiplied labors of Mr. Fitch in behalf of the Indians, to civilize, Christianize, and render them comfortable, have been heretofore noticed. His correspondence with the Governor and Assistants was voluminous. Among the documents of the State, letters concerning the wayward natives are yet extant, bearing his signature.




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\* Rev. H. P. Arms, the successor of Mr. Fitch at the present day,—the sixth incumbent of the pastoral office in the old town of Norwich,—in reference to the ordination of Mr. Fitch, observes:

"We retain the same principles, and hold that all ecclesiastical authority is vested in the individual churches, and that while, as a matter of Christian courtesy, we ask the aid of a council in ordaining or deposing ministers, we accede to that council no authority beyond what the church delegates to it for the occasion." *Norwich Jubilee*, p. 252.

† Conn. Col. Rec., 2, 222.



As a pastor, Mr. Fitch was zealous and indefatigable. In addition to his other labors, he trained several young men for the ministry, as he himself had been trained by Mr. Hooker. Rev. Samuel Whiting of Windham, Taylor of Westfield, and Adams of New London, received a part at least of their theological instruction from him. Before colleges and academies were established in the land, a course of study in the family of some experienced divine was the customary method of preparing young men for the ministry.

Lebanon, we have said, was an offshoot of Norwich. In 1663, Major Mason had a legislative grant of 500 acres of land, with his choice of location in the unappropriated territory of the colony. It was taken up "at a place called by the Indians Pomakuck near Norwich."

The registry is found on the records of the New London County Court:

Wee whose names are under writen according to the order from the Generall Court wee have laid out five hundred ackers of upland and meadow for Maior Mason at pomacook.

THOMAS TRACY.

FRANCIS GRISWOLD.

from Norwig 1665, the 6th [month left blank.]

Acknowledged by Uncas sachem of Mohegan in Court at New London Nov. 14, 1665.

Pomakuck, or Pomakook, was a tract of land upon Deep River brook, near the borders of Lebanon and Franklin, the latter being then a part of Norwich. In October, 1666, a grant was made to Mr. Fitch of 120 acres adjoining Major Mason's land at Pomakook.\* To this grant, Owaneco, the son and successor of Uncas, at a subsequent period, in acknowledgment of favors received from Mr. Fitch, added a tract five miles in length and one in breadth. This munificent gift was familiarly called *the Mile*, or *Mr. Fitch's Mile*.†

Afterward the same chief, who claimed all the unsettled lands in this quarter, sold to four proprietors, viz., Capt. Samuel Mason and Capt. John Stanton of Stonington, Capt. Benjamin Brewster and Mr. John Birchard of Norwich, a tract five miles square, "at a place called by the Indians Poque-chan-neeg adjoining to the Mile, so called of the Rev. Mr. Fitch." This deed bears date, Sept. 6, 1692, and was probably executed at Norwich, the witnesses being Richard Bushnell and Thomas Adgate.‡

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\* Conn. Col. Rec., 2, 49.

† L. Hebard, Esq., of Lebanon, estimates *the Mile* to have been a mile in width, liberal measure, and about seven miles in length instead of five. It was bounded north by Shetucket river, and east by Norwich.

‡ Acknowledged before Samuel Mason, at Norwich, Jan. 5, 1698-9. Recorded at Lebanon, Book 1, Article 1. Endorsed, confirmed by Gen. Ass., May, 1705.

These various grants, with certain strips and gores purchased at a later date, make up the town of Lebanon. Major Mason was undoubtedly the first English proprietor, but not a resident.

The distribution into lots, the occupation and actual settlement of the town, began in 1695.\* The number of grants and allotments bearing date in November of that year is about fifty. In the earliest roll of inhabitants, made soon after 1700, are the names of four sons of the Rev. Mr. Fitch,—Jeremiah, Nathaniel, Joseph, and Eleazer.

According to tradition, the township was named by Mr. Fitch before a house had been built, or a tree felled by a white man upon the tract. Within the bounds of the Mile, was an extensive cedar forest, which, by the principle of association, assisted also by the height of the land, suggesting to the mind of its accomplished owner the Cedars of Lebanon, led him to bestow the name of Lebanon upon the whole tract.

The town and its patron have reason to be satisfied with each other. Quiet, beautiful, dignified Lebanon! with its broad street like a continued park, and its fertile farms,—the birth-place and resting-place of the two Trumbulls, and of Williams, equally true-hearted and patriotic,—let pilgrimages be made to its bounds, and wreaths, often renewed, laid upon the graves of the fathers and patriots that rest in its bosom.†

To this new and interesting plantation Mr. Fitch, in the year 1701, retired to die. A brief summer passed in its quiet, secluded shades, led him gently forward to the tomb. His three youngest sons, Nathaniel, Joseph, and Eleazer, early settlers of Lebanon, repose near him, with head-stones to point out their graves.

Mr. Fitch was twice married, and had fourteen children, whose births are all recorded at Norwich, though the first six were born in Saybrook, and are also recorded there, with the death of the first wife. All the children except Elizabeth are referred to as among the living, in the will of their father, February, 1696, and it is not improbable that twelve followed his remains to the grave. His first wife was Abigail, daughter of the Rev. Henry Whitefield, whom he married in October, 1648. She died at Saybrook, Sept. 9, 1659, and in October, 1664, he was united to Priscilla Mason, who survived him. The date of her death has not been ascertained. Her signature (*Priscilla Fitch*) is attached, with the names

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\* The name, Lebanon, was current in the neighborhood of Norwich, before it was given to the town. Grants at *Lebanon*, referring to certain parts of what is now Franklin, were recorded in 1687. The farms of John Johnson and Thomas Baldwin were described as "near to Lebanon," and Johnson had ten acres in *Lebanon Valley*. *Little Lebanon* and *Lebanon Hill* were terms used at that period in reference to places in Franklin.

† In 1850, there was no lawyer and no tavern in Lebanon. The population had somewhat decreased, and was then only 1,901.



of other Mason heirs, to a quit-claim deed to rights in Mohegan lands derived from their ancestor Major Mason, March 20, 1710, probably N. S. 1711.

The Fitch family soon became numerous, and the name widely spread, owing to the preponderance of sons in the early branches. Mr. Fitch had himself nine sons, and his oldest son James the same number. Joseph had seven sons, and Nathaniel fifteen children, of whom eleven were sons. Eleazer, the youngest of the original family, was the only one who left no posterity.

It is a little singular that not one of the sons of Mr. Fitch established his permanent home in Norwich. James went to Canterbury. Samuel settled on a farm in Preston as early as 1687.\* Daniel became an inhabitant of the North Parish of New London, in the immediate neighborhood of Norwich, but not within its bounds. John went to Windham. Jabez pursued his ministerial calling at Ipswich and Portsmouth, and the four others took up farms in Lebanon.

Capt. Daniel Fitch above named, of the North Parish (now Montville), was born at Norwich in the fifth year after the settlement, and died June 3, 1711. His inventory shows that he owned three farms, one at Trading Cove, one at Dry Brook, and one lying on both sides of *Connecticut path*, that is, the road to Hartford, through Colchester. The homestead farm at Trading Cove was a town grant to his father, and has never been either bought or sold, but has descended by inheritance to the present day, (1865.)

As a general rule, the early Fitches were men of capacity, and prosperous in their worldly concerns. It was formerly a current saying among the farmers of the neighborhood, that the Fitches always settled by a stream of water, which was equivalent to saying that they were thriving men possessed of valuable farms.

The five daughters of the Rev. James Fitch were connected in marriage as follows:

Abigail with Capt. John Mason, 2d.

Elizabeth with Rev. Edward Taylor of Westfield, Mass.

Hannah with Thomas Meeks, or Mix.

Dorothy with Nathaniel Bissell.

Anna, the only daughter of the second marriage, became the wife of Joseph Bradford.

Two of these daughters, viz., Abigail and Hannah, remained at Norwich. Thomas Meeks married Hannah Fitch June 30, 1677. They settled on the east of the Shetucket, but within the bounds of the Nine-miles-square.

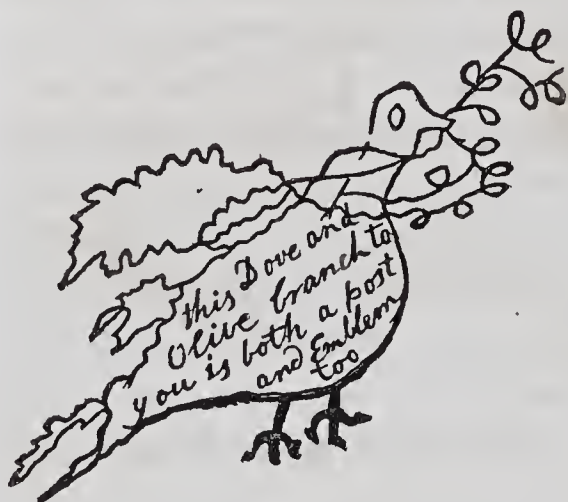
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\* Mr. Samuel Fitch died in 1725. He was the ancestor on the maternal side of Asa Fitch, Esq., of Fitchville.

By means also of intermarriages with other families of the town, Norwich still retains a large interest in the family of her first revered minister. Not only his influence, memory, and example, but the vital current that quickened his frame, flows in the veins of many of her children.

Mr. Taylor, who settled in the ministry at Westfield, Mass., had been a theological student in the family of Mr. Fitch. His attachment to the daughter probably commenced at that time. A love-letter that she received from him before their marriage, has been preserved,\* which displays in a striking manner the quaint and metaphorical taste of the age,—a taste, the decline of which can not be lamented, since it seems better adapted to the display of an elaborate fancy, than to express genuine feeling.

The address was accompanied with a crude sketch of a carrier dove with an olive-branch in his mouth.



This for my friend and only beloved

MISS ELIZABETH FITCH,

at her father's house in Norwich.

WESTFIELD, 8 day of 7th month, 1674.

My Dove,

I send you not my heart, for that I trust is sent to Heaven long since, and unless it hath wofully deceived me, it hath not taken up its lodgings in any one's bosom on this side of the Royal City of the Great King, but yet the most of it that is allowed to be layed out upon any creature doth safely and singly fall to your share.

So much my post pigeon presents you with here in these lines. Look not, I entreat you, upon it as one of Love's hyperboles, if I borrow the beams of some sparkling metaphor to illustrate my respects unto thyself by, for you having made my breast the cabinet of your affections, as I yours mine, I know not how to offer a fitter comparison to set out my love by than to compare it unto a golden ball of pure fire, rolling up and down my breast, from which there flies now and then a spark like a glorious beam from the body of the flaming sun. But alas! striving to catch these sparks into a love-letter unto yourself, and to gild it with them as with a sunbeam, I find that by what time they have fallen through my pen upon my paper they have lost their shine, and fall only like a little smoke thereon instead of gilding them, wherefore, finding myself so much deceived, I am ready to begrudge my instruments, for though my love within my breast is so large that my heart is not sufficient to contain it, yet they can make it no more room to ride into, than to squeeze it up betwixt my black ink and white paper. But know that it is the coarsest part that is couchant there, for the purest is too fine to clothe in any linguish huswifry, or to be expressed in words.

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\* If not the original, at least a careful copy.



The writer then proceeds to show "that conjugal love should exceed all other love," but in illustrating this point he runs into the style of a sermon, and the lover is almost lost in the theologian.

Mr. Taylor was a man of great erudition, and left a large number of MSS. behind him. One of his daughters by his second wife, Ruth Wyllis of Hartford, was the wife of Rev. Dr. Lord of Norwich. Another daughter was mother of President Styles of Yale College.

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### III. ADGATE.

No other Adgate except Thomas is found among the original settlers of New England, and his name has not been traced until it appears at Saybrook. From whence he came, or when, and whether alone or with wife and children, are alike unknown. It is seldom that any name appears so isolated and untraceable. The following record, with a registry of lands, and his name, as present at a town meeting in 1655, are the chief memorials of him at Saybrook.

#### CHILDREN OF THOMAS ADGAT.

Elizabeth born the 10th of October, Anno 1651.

Hanna born the 6th of October, Anno 1653.

At Norwich the same children are recorded with those of subsequent birth, as follows :

Elizabeth, born in October, 1651; Hannah in October, 1653; Abigail in August, 1661; Sarah in January, 1663; Rebecca in June, 1666; Thomas in March, 1669-70.

No day of the month is given. The death of the first wife, and his marriage with the second, are not registered. From incidental circumstances it is evident that the second wife was Mary, daughter of Matthew Marvin and widow of Richard Bushnell, and it is probable that the marriage took place about the time of the removal to Norwich.

The five daughters married respectively, Richard Bushnell, Samuel Lothrop, Daniel Tracy, Christopher Huntington, and Joseph Huntington, all proprietors of Norwich, of the first or second generation.

Thomas Adgate was a deacon of Mr. Fitch's church, but at what period chosen to that office is not known. He was older than his pastor, and perhaps his coeval in office. It is probable that he exercised the functions for at least half a century. His will, dated May 22, 1704, commences, "I Thomas Adgit, being in the 84th year of my age," &c. He died July 21, 1707. Mrs. Mary Adgate, his relict, died March 29, 1713.

The second Thomas Adgate was also deacon of the church, holding the office for forty-two years. He died Dec. 10, 1760, aged 91. He had two

sons, Thomas and Matthew, both of whom had families. The former died in the 34th and the latter in the 81st year of his age. Most of the descendants emigrated to other states, and the name is now rare in this vicinity. Matthew, the son of Matthew, removed in middle life to a place called from him Adgate's Falls, in Chesterfield, New York. He was a member of the Convention that formed the Constitution of New York in 1777. Asa Adgate, M. C. from Essex County, N. Y., from 1815 to 1817, was his son.

William Adgate, brother of the last-named Matthew, occupied the family homestead at Norwich, where he died in 1779, in the 35th year of his age. His relict survived him thirty-three years. Their sons Daniel and William had previously settled in Philadelphia, and the old residence of the family went into other hands.\*

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#### IV. ALLYN.

Robert Allyn was of Salem in 1637, and enrolled as a member of the church, May 15, 1642. He removed to New London in 1651, where he obtained a grant of a large farm on the east side of the river, at a place still known as Allyn's Point, but now in the town of Ledyard. He was one of the first company of purchasers of Norwich, and resided for several years in the western part of the town-plot. In 1661, he styles himself of "New-Norridge," and held the office of constable in 1669, but in a deed of 1681 uses the formula, "I Robert Allyn of New London."

Among the early settlers of the country, we often meet with persons whom it is difficult to locate. They possess lands that lap over the bounds of adjoining settlements, and sometimes appear to belong to different townships at one and the same time.

Robert Allyn had doubtless relinquished his house in Norwich to his son John, and retired to his farm on the river, within the bounds of New London, where he died in 1683. His age is unknown; but he was freed from training in 1669, probably upon attaining the age of 60, the customary limit of military service: this would make him about 75 at death.

The heirs to his estate were his son John, and four daughters,—Sarah, wife of George Geares; Mary, wife of Thomas Parke; Hannah, wife of Thomas Rose; and Deborah, who afterwards married John Gager, Jun. The son received £133, and each of the daughters £66 6s.

John Allyn, the son, married Dec. 24, 1668, "Elizabeth, daughter of John Gager of New Norwich." In 1691, he exchanged his homestead

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\* Origin of the name: The prefix *At* was used to denote the residence of a person, as James At Well, *at the well*; Tom At Wood, *at the wood*; Will At Gate, *at the gate*; now Atwell, Atwood, and Adgate. See Arthur's Family Names.



and other privileges in Norwich with Joshua Abell and Simon Huntington, Jr., for lands east of the river, and transferred his residence to the former seat of the family at Allyn's Point. This brought him again within the bounds of New London, and his name appears in 1704 as one of the patentees of that town. He died in 1709, leaving an estate of £1278, to be divided between his son Robert and his daughter Elizabeth, the wife of Thomas Waterman. His inventory enumerates three farms and a trading establishment upon the river. Among the moveables are such articles of cost and comfort as a silver tankard, cup and tumbler, a silver whistle, a gold ring, a wrought cushion, and a lignum-vitæ mortar and pestle. This was about the period when such small luxuries were beginning to be diffused among prosperous farmers and traders.

With Robert Allyn of the third generation, the male line was still a unit. He married Deborah Avery, and died in 1730, leaving nine children. Robert Allyn, of the fourth generation, occupied the same homestead at Allyn's Point, and dying in 1760, left an estate of more than £3,000. His inventory of wearing apparel comprised: a blue coat with brass buttons; silk jacket and breeches; laced jacket; boots and spurs; gold sleeve-buttons and ring; silver snuff-box; silver buckles for shoes, knees and neck-bands.

These successive inventories vividly illustrate the advance of the country in wealth, comfort, and elegance.

Allyn's Point, where stood the old homestead of the family, is about six miles below Norwich, on the opposite side of the river from the Mohegan fields. The ancient fort of Uncas was in full view from the house. South of the pond and cove is a conspicuous elevation known as Allyn's Mountain, from whence the prospect is wide and far-reaching. To this height the neighbors were accustomed to resort as a look-out post, when the river was visited by any unusual craft, or the Indians on the other side were gathered for council or sport. From this place on the memorable 6th of September, 1781, the conflagration of New London was witnessed by women and children whose husbands and fathers had hastened to the scene of action. In the war of 1812, the three blockaded vessels forming the squadron of Commodore Decatur were laid up in the river near by, and on this hill his men threw up a redoubt and kept a sentry to watch the movements in and near New London Harbor.

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#### BACKUS.

Little is known of the history of William Backus, Sen. He is supposed to have been living at Saybrook as early as 1637. In the settlement of the estate of John Charles, who died at Branford in 1673, the

children of William Backus received a share, in right of their deceased mother, who was his daughter. From this fact it is ascertained that the first wife of William Backus was Sarah, daughter of John Charles.

Before removing to Norwich, he married Mrs. Anne Bingham, and brought with him to the new settlement three daughters, two sons, and his wife's son, Thomas Bingham. The three young men were of mature age, or near maturity, and are all usually reckoned as first proprietors. The daughters were subsequently united in marriage to John Reynolds, Benjamin Crane, and John Bayley.

The house-lots of the younger William and of Stephen Backus are both recorded as laid out in 1659; but the latter was the allotment of his father, who dying at an early period after the settlement, and the land-records being made at a later date, it was registered in Stephen's name, who had received it by bequest from his father. Hence, William Backus, Senior, does not appear on the town record as a land-holder.

His will, dated June 12, 1661, and witnessed by Thomas Tracy and John Post, is recorded at New London, and endorsed as allowed by a court held in that place, June 21, 1665. The inventory of his effects is found among ancient court documents at Hartford, dated June, 1664. The date of his death has not been recovered. It is probable that it took place soon after the signing of the will. The slender legacies mentioned are suggestive of the limited resources of the settlement in its earliest days, and we may fairly infer from the rapid growth of the town afterward, that they would have been enlarged by a subsequent addition, or that a fresh instrument would have been executed, had the testator survived until 1664. That three or four years intervened before the settlement of the estate, scarcely militates against this supposition, when the circumstances of the case are considered; the land almost a wilderness, the inhabitants engaged in arduous labors, the town but just organized, and no justices, no law offices or courts within their own bounds.

The provisions of the will are few and simple. He has nothing to bequeath but his house and land, cows, corn, household stuff, and "the tools belonging to the trade of a smith or cutler;" and he confirms it with the signature W. B., instead of writing his name.

It is interesting to observe how rapidly the settlement advanced in prosperity and comfort. This family and others in the course of a single generation grew strong and luxuriant, throwing out buds and branches of rich and noble growth.

The death of Mrs. Backus is registered with the Bingham family.

"Mrs. Anne Backus, mother of Thomas Bingham Sen. died in May 1670."



## V. STEPHEN BACKUS.

The rights and privileges of William Backus, Senior, were transferred so soon after the settlement to his son Stephen, that the latter is accounted the original proprietor. The house-lot was entered in his name, as to a first purchaser. It lay upon the pent highway by the Yantic, between the Town Green and the allotment of Thomas Bliss.

Stephen Backus was married in December, 1666, to Sarah Spencer. After a residence of over thirty years in Norwich, he removed with his family about the year 1692 to Canterbury, and there died in 1695. His sons Stephen and Timothy are counted among the early settlers of that town. Stephen, 2d, died May 1, 1707. An agreement subsequently made by the heirs of the elder Stephen, has the signatures of the widow Sarah Backus and her daughter Elizabeth, of Timothy Backus, and of David Knight, Robert Green, and William Baker, who signed in behalf of their wives, Sarah, Ruth, and Rebecca, daughters of the deceased.

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## VI. WILLIAM BACKUS, JR.

The second William Backus married Elizabeth, daughter of Lieut. William Pratt of Saybrook. She was born Feb. 1, 1641. The date of the marriage is not registered at Norwich, and it is probable that the young couple did not remove to the new settlement till after the birth of their first son, William, May 11, 1660. John, the second son, born Feb. 9, 1661-2, married Mary, daughter of Thomas Bingham. Hannah Backus, one of the daughters of the family, found a partner in the second Thomas Bingham. Both marriages have the same date, Feb. 17, 1691-2. It was not uncommon in that day for families to be linked and interlinked and the knots doubled and twisted as in the case of the Backuses and Bingham. William Backus, 2d, is found on record with the successive titles of Sergeant, Ensign, and Lieutenant, though he styles himself, in deeds, simply *yeoman*. His will and inventory were presented for probate in April, 1721.

William Backus, 3d, son of the above, sold his accommodations in Norwich to his father, in 1692, and removed to "*the nameless new town lying about ten miles N. W. of Norwich.*" His brother John also emigrated to the same place, afterward named Windham, and both are reckoned among the early proprietors of that town. The present Windham Green was part of the original home-lot of William Backus.

Joseph and Nathaniel, the younger sons of William Backus, 2d, remained in Norwich. Joseph married Elizabeth Huntington, and Nathaniel, Elizabeth Tracy, daughters of the proprietors Simon Huntington and

John Tracy. Joseph and Simon Backus, the first two graduates of Yale College of the name of Backus, were sons of Joseph. The former graduated in 1718, and some eight or ten years later was styled by his contemporaries, *Lawyer Backus of Norwich*.

A large number of the Backus family have acquired distinction in the various walks of life. Elijah Backus, whose iron works at Yantic were so serviceable to the country in the Revolutionary war, was a grandson of Joseph. He married Lucy, daughter of John Griswold of Lyme. His sons, and his son-in-law, Dudley Woodbridge, were among the first emigrants to the banks of the Ohio. James Backus, one of the sons, as agent of the Ohio Company, made the first surveys of Marietta, and is said to have built the first regular house in that town. He afterward returned to Norwich, and died at the family residence, Sept. 29, 1816.

The second Elijah Backus, an older brother of James, graduated at Yale College in 1777, and for several years held the office of Collector of Customs at New London. His first wife was Lucretia, daughter of Russell Hubbard, who died at New London in 1787.\* He afterward married Hannah, daughter of Guy Richards, and removed with his family to Marietta, Ohio, where he died in 1811. His daughter Lucretia, born at New London in 1787, married Nathaniel Pope, of Kaskaskia, Illinois, delegate in Congress from Illinois in 1816, and Judge of the U. S. District Court. Major-General John Pope, U. S. A., is their son, born March 12, 1823. His mother, Mrs. Lucretia Pope, in remembrance of the place of her father's nativity and of her own early associations, came from her western home to attend the bi-centennial Jubilee at Norwich, in September, 1859.

Among the descendants of William Backus, who were natives of the old town of Norwich, the following clergymen are of note :

1. Simon Backus, son of Joseph, born at Norwich, Feb. 11, 1701, graduated at Yale College in 1724, and was ordained pastor of the church at Newington in 1727. He attended the expedition to Cape Breton, as chaplain of the Connecticut troops, and died while on duty at that place, in May, 1746. His wife was a sister of President Edwards of the New Jersey College.

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\* Her grave-stone has the following inscription :

Hic jac : reliq :  
 Lucretia uxor  
 E. Backus Armig :  
 quæ ob. Jan. 30.  
 An. Christ. 1787  
 Ætat. 25.

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Quæ latet veritas sub umbra,  
 Nocte præterita tenebrarum patebit.



2. Rev. Simon Backus, son of the above, was pastor in Granby, Mass., and died in 1828, aged 87.

3. Rev. Charles Backus, D. D., of Somers, born in that part of Norwich which is now Franklin, Nov. 9, 1749, died in 1803. He had a high reputation as an acute and able theologian, and prepared between forty and fifty young men for the sacred office. Dr. Dwight said of him, "I have not known a wiser man."

4. Rev. Isaac Backus, A. M., of Middleborough, Mass., was born at Norwich, within the limits of the old town plot, Jan. 9, 1724, and died Nov. 20, 1806. He was first a Separatist, and afterwards embracing Baptist principles, became eminent in that denomination as a preacher, and the author of several historical works relating to the diffusion of the Baptist faith in New England.

5. Rev. Azel Backus, D. D., born in Franklin, Oct. 13, 1765, was a nephew of Rev. Charles Backus of Somers. His father died when he was a youth, and left him a farm, which, he said, "I wisely exchanged for an education in College." He settled at Bethlem, Conn., as the successor of Dr. Bellamy, but in 1812 was chosen the first President of Hamilton College. The most noted of his writings is an Election Sermon preached at Hartford in 1798, on the character of Absalom,—a political discourse of strong partizan tendency.

## VII. BALDWIN.\*

*John Baldwin* is a name often repeated among the early emigrants to the New World. Two or three John Baldwins settled in Massachusetts. John, the son of Sylvester, was at New Haven before 1640, and is supposed to have removed to Stonington.† A person of the same name, with several other Baldwins, is found among the planters at Milford in 1639, from whence he removed with his son John to Newark in 1667.

John Baldwin of Norwich stands apart from all these, no connection between him and any other Baldwin family having been hitherto ascertained. A family tradition has been current that he came to this country in his youth with a relative, but had no brothers. His first appearance on record is at Guilford, where he married, April 25, 1653, Hannah Burchet, [probably Birchard.] The children recorded at Guilford are:

John, born Dec. 5, 1654.

Hannah, born Oct. 6, 1656.

Sarah, born Nov. 25, 1658.

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\* The name, *Baldwin*, is said to be a contraction of Bold-winner.

† John Baldwin, first of New London and afterward of Stonington, married widow Rebecca Chesebrough, July 24, 1672. He died in 1683.

The registry is not continued in Norwich, but we know that he had a second son, Thomas, who was born in 1661 or 62.

Of the decease of the proprietor there is no account. His oldest son, John, removed to Lebanon. He was one of the grantees of that plantation in 1695, one of the selectmen of the newly organized township in 1699, and at the time of his decease in January, 1705, was a deacon of the church.

"Thomas Baldwin, Husbandman," the second son of John the proprietor, married Sarah, daughter of John Calkins. He died Sept. 16, 1741, in the 80th year of his age. His farm was three miles distant from the town-plot, and now forms a part of the large domain of Asa Fitch, Esq., of Fitchville, Bozrah. Though he himself made a cross for his signature, in the course of three or four generations we find among his descendants, divines, lawyers, physicians, scholars, and statesmen. He had four daughters, who passed in due time into other families,—Baldwin of Lebanon, Birchard, Backus, and Post; and four sons, viz., John, who married Lucy Metcalf of Lebanon, and his family removing to the Cohos country, assisted in peopling the New Hampshire grants; Thomas, Ebenezer, and Jabez.

The second Thomas, son of Thomas and Sarah, baptized by Rev. Mr. Woodward, July 22, 1701, married Ann Bingham, 1730. They had eight children. Their oldest son, the third Thomas Baldwin, born in 1734, studied medicine, and after a short term of practice, entered the army as surgeon, and served in that capacity on the frontier, in the wars against the French. He died in the prime of life, and probably while in the service, before he had attained his 30th year.

He had married at a very early age, and left a widow, and an only son, who continued the paternal name, and gave to it a distinguished reputation. This fourth Thomas Baldwin, in regular succession, was born in the Bozrah district of Norwich, Dec. 23, 1753, and considered in the light of a self-taught man, deriving but little aid from schools or books, and gathering mental treasures slowly, in the intervals of a laborious farming life, was one of the most noted characters that the Nine-miles-square has produced.

His mother married a second husband of the name of Eames, and when he was about sixteen years of age the family removed to Canaan, N. H., where they breasted the hardships of a frontier life. In that mountainous, half-opened, sparsely-inhabited district, the ministerial labors of Thomas Baldwin commenced. He married, in September, 1775, Ruth Huntington of Norwich, (*one of the Ruth Huntingtons*, it might be said, for that has been a name often duplicated in Norwich,) and spent several years, farming and studying, traveling and preaching,—a pains-taking, hard-working, unpaid evangelist of the Baptist denomination.



From these useful but obscure scenes, he was suddenly transferred, in the year 1790, to the pastorate of a large, intelligent and wealthy society in Boston. Yet he rose naturally to the requisite standard, and filled this new sphere as successfully as the former. The native vigor of his intellect was equal to all demands made upon it. He became known as an author, editor, and theologian, and exerted a powerful influence in favor of the denomination to which he belonged, concentrating its energies and greatly enlarging the sphere of its operations.

He died suddenly, at Waterville, Maine, while on a visit to that place, Aug. 29, 1824, aged 71.

Capt. Ebenezer Baldwin, the third son of Thomas and Sarah, was born May 7, 1710, and married Bethiah Barker, the nuptial contract being made sure "per Jacob Elliot." The epitaph upon his tomb-stone condenses the history of his life.

In Memory  
of  
Capt. Ebenezer Baldwin,  
who departed this life May 2d  
1792, aged 80 years.  
A reputable citizen,  
A kind husband, a tender parent,  
An amiable cheerful neighbour,  
And a good man.  
Supported by Christian fortitude  
He bore with singular Philosophy  
the peculiar calamities of his life  
during nine years of blindness and infirmity  
and the extreme pains of  
his last lingering sickness  
in the sure hope of a long wished for  
Eternity of happiness.

Ebenezer, the oldest son of Ebenezer and Bethiah Baldwin, born July 3, 1745, was a graduate and tutor of Yale College; ordained pastor at Danbury in 1770, entered the army as chaplain in 1776, and died in October, 1777, aged 31.

Hon. Simeon Baldwin, so long known as Judge Baldwin of New Haven, one of the sterling men of Connecticut, was also a son of Capt. Ebenezer and his wife Bethiah. He was born at Norwich, Dec. 14, 1761, graduated at Yale College in 1781, was member of Congress from Connecticut from 1803 to 1805, Associate Judge of the Superior Court and Supreme Court of Errors, and Mayor of the city of New Haven, where he died, May 26, 1851, in his 90th year.

His son, the Hon. Roger S. Baldwin, held the offices of Governor of Connecticut, and U. S. Senator, serving his native state in her highest

executive and confederated capacity. He died at New Haven, Feb. 19, 1863.

Jabez Baldwin, the fourth son of the first Thomas, died in his 25th year, without issue.

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#### VIII. BINGHAM.

The house-lot of Thomas Bingham bears the date of April, 1660, though at that time he could not have been over eighteen years of age. He married, Dec. 12, 1666, Mary Rudd, who is supposed to have been the daughter of Lieut. Jonathan Rudd of Saybrook. Her image rises before us enveloped in a haze of romance, on account of her probable connection with the story of Bride Brook.

The dainty little river or rivulet that bears this name, is in East Lyme, and received its designation from a marriage ceremony that was performed on its bank in the latter part of the year 1646, or the early part of 1647. The couple linked together were Jonathan Rudd and some unknown fair one to whom with little hazard of mistake we may give the gentle name of Mary. New London and Saybrook were then adjoining towns, though Lyme, East Lyme and Waterford have since seated themselves between. The scene of this solemn betrothal was a solitary spot, far from any human habitation, unless it might have been of savage wigwams; the ground was covered with snow, and the solemnities must have been performed in the open air.

Witnesses were not wanting on this interesting occasion. The air, we may believe, was full,—and a goodly number belonging to the earth, stood around, wrapped in their furry robes. John Winthrop, Esq., afterward Governor of the Colony, was the acting magistrate; a friendly cavalcade accompanied him from New London, which, with the bridal party from Saybrook, and a few wild faces peering curiously from the woods, made a company sufficient to relieve the wilderness of its silence and solitude.

This enlivening piece of romance, which comes like the breath from a bank of violets across the sterile ridges of our early history, originated from what the historian may consider a fortunate concurrence of untoward events. No person duly qualified to perform the nuptial service was to be found in Saybrook, and the route to Hartford was too much obstructed with snow to admit of travel in that direction. Application was made to Mr. Winthrop at Pequot Harbor to come to Saybrook and ratify the contract; but he had been commissioned by Massachusetts, and his settlement being under the jurisdiction of that colony, he could not exercise the functions of a magistrate within the limits of Connecticut. To obviate the difficulty, he proposed to meet the parties upon the border of the two gov-



ernments, and there, under the open expanse of heaven, to rivet the golden chain. This arrangement not only gave novelty and brilliance to the ceremony, but made it an incident of historical importance, subsequently cited and accepted as reliable testimony in a case relating to the original bounds of the two plantations.\*

The name of the bride of Bride Brook has not been recovered. Mary Rudd, who became the wife of the young Norwich proprietor, Thomas Bingham, is supposed to have been a daughter of the couple who were there united, and probably their first-born child.† Her age at the time of her death carries her birth back to 1648.

Thomas and Mary Bingham had eleven children, four of them daughters, viz., Mary, Ann, Abigail, and Deborah, who became in due time the household partners of John Backus, Hezekiah Mason, Daniel Huntington, and Stephen Tracy. The parents, with the greater part of their family, removed to Windham, where Thomas Bingham can be traced for more than thirty years, as sergeant, selectman, and deacon of the church. He is on the first list of approved inhabitants in 1693, and appears to have sustained through life a position of influence and respectability. Both in a civil and religious capacity, he takes rank among the fathers of that town.‡

He died Jan. 16, 1729–30, aged 88.

Mrs. Mary Bingham died Aug. 4, 1726, aged 78.

Thomas Bingham, Jr., born Dec. 11, 1669, was the only one of the sons that settled permanently in Norwich, and succeeded to the privileges of his father as a proprietor of the town. He married Hannah, daughter of William Backus, and died April 1, 1710, leaving eight children under the age of 18.

Caleb Bingham, a bookseller of Boston, well known to the New England schools of the last generation as the publisher of the *Columbian Orator* and *American Preceptor*, was a descendant of Thomas Bingham of Norwich. He was a native of Salisbury, Conn.

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## IX. BIRCHARD.

Thomas Burchard, aged forty, embarked for New England in a vessel called the *True Love*, Sept. 20, 1635, with his wife, Mary, and six child-

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\* Winthrop's deposition in March, 1672, respecting the bounds between New London and Lyme. Conn. Col. Rec., 2, 558.

† In a deed recorded at Saybrook, Nathaniel Rudd calls Lieut. Jonathan Rudd *his father*, and in a similar instrument upon record at Norwich, Thomas Bingham speaks of Nathaniel Rudd as *his brother*, from which it is inferred that Mary (Rudd) Bingham was the daughter of Jonathan Rudd.

‡ W. A. Weaver's Notes on Windham.

ren, one of them a son, named John, aged seven, and the others daughters. Thomas *Bircher*, made free at Boston, May 17, 1637, and Thomas *Birchwood*, or *Birchard*, of Hartford in 1639, were probably the same person. He is subsequently found at Saybrook, and was deputy from that township to the General Court in 1650 and 51. After this there seems to be no trace of him at Saybrook, except in a land sale made in 1656 by Thomas *Birchard*, "of Martin's Vineyard," to William Pratt, wherein he quits claim for himself and in behalf of his son, John *Birchard*.†

There can be little hesitation in assuming that John, son of the above Thomas, (aged seven in 1635,) was the John *Birchard* that became a proprietor of Norwich. He appears to have been a man of considerable note in the company, particularly as a scribe, serving for several years as Town Clerk and Recorder.

John *Birchard* was one of the ten inhabitants of Norwich accepted as freemen at Hartford in October, 1663, Clerk of the County Court in 1673, a Commissioner or Justice of the Peace in 1676, and Deputy to the General Court in October, 1691.

(Autograph in 1680.)



John Birchard C.C.

The marriage of John *Birchard* and Christian *Andrews*, July 22, 1653, and the births of fourteen children, ranging from 1654 to November, 1680, are recorded at Norwich. The first five of the children and one of later birth died in infancy. The mother seems to have been called away while her family was still young, and Mr. *Birchard* married for a second wife, Jane, relict of Samuel *Hyde* and daughter of Thomas *Lee*.

In the settlement of Lebanon, Mr. *Birchard* took a prominent interest. He was one of the four original proprietors of the five miles tract purchased of Owaneco in 1692. He assisted in laying out the lands, removed thither with his family, probably about 1698, and there died, Nov. 17, 1702,—just two days before the decease of Mr. *Fitch*. His relict, Mrs. Jane *Birchard*, died at Lebanon, Jan. 21, 1722–3.

Mr. *Birchard* had six sons that lived to maturity. Samuel, the oldest, went to Windham. John, Joseph and Daniel are found among the early inhabitants of Lebanon, though it is not certain that they all remained there.

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\* Mass. Hist. Coll., 3 : 8, 272.

† A Thomas *Birchard* died at Dorchester, near Boston, Oct. 3, 1657. *Savage's Gen. Diet.*, 1, 181.



James Birchard, born July 16, 1665, settled at Norwich West Farms, now Franklin. He married Elizabeth Beckwith, had a family of ten children, and lived to be more than eighty years of age.

Thomas Birchard also settled in Norwich, and left descendants. The name has never disappeared from the roll of inhabitants.

The two daughters of the proprietor, John Birchard, married John Calkins and Jonathan Hartshorn.

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## X. BLISS.

Thomas Bliss, Senior and Junior, had house-lots and divisions of land in Hartford, as early as 1640. The senior died in Hartford, leaving nine children, and his widow, Margaret, apparently a woman of resolute, independent character, removed with the younger part of the family to Springfield. Thomas Bliss, Junior, is afterwards found at Saybrook, where his marriage and the births of six children are recorded. The list is repeated with some variation of date and the addition of two more children, at Norwich. The wife's family name is not given in either place. "Thomas and Elizabeth Bliss were married the latter end of October, 1644."

The allotments of Thomas Bliss in Saybrook were eastward of the river in what is now Lyme. His house-lot of thirty acres lay between John Ompsted (Olmstead) on the north, and John Lay south. He sold it, July 23, 1662, to John Comstock. His home-lot in Norwich was also near to that of John Olmstead, extending originally, at the north-west, to the pent highway. That part where the house stands, has never been alienated. Seven generations have dwelt on the same spot, and the house is supposed not to have been entirely rebuilt since it was erected by the first proprietor.\*

Thomas Bliss died April 15, 1688. His will, executed two days before his death, was proved at New London, before Edward Palmes, June 13, and allowed by Sir Edmund Andross at Boston; this being the period when that delegated despot arrogated to himself supreme authority over the courts of New England. The will recognizes wife Elizabeth, son Samuel, and six daughters. His oldest son, Thomas, had died without issue, Jan. 29, 1681. Elizabeth, the relict, died Feb. 28, 1699–1700.

Samuel Bliss married, Dec. 8, 1681, Anna, daughter of John Elderkin.

Five of the daughters married as follows:

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\* "Bliss in 1659; Bliss in 1859: no bad motto for a Norwich home." Gilman's Hist. Discourse, Sept. 7, 1859. The portrait of Dr. Benjamin Lord, one of the venerable ministers of the parish, and the maternal ancestor of the present occupants, hanging upon its walls, seems to accord with the ancient date and quiet comfort of the dwelling.

Elizabeth married Edward Smith of New London, June 7, 1663.

Sarah m. 1st, Thomas Sluman, Dec., 1668; 2d, Solomon Tracy.

Mary m. David Calkins of New London.

Deliverance (recorded also *Deliver* and *Dolinda*) m. Daniel Perkins of Norwich.

Anne, one of the first-born daughters of Norwich, m. Josiah Rockwell, 1688.

Rebecca, the youngest daughter, born in 1663, has not been traced.

In the inventory of Thomas Bliss, his estate is estimated at £182.17.7. He had land, besides his home-lot, over the river,—on the Little Plain,—at the Great Plain,—at the Falls,—in Yantic meadow,—in meadow at Beaver Brook,—in pasture east of the town,—and on Westward hill.

This illustrates the prudential course of the early rulers of the plantation in regard to the common lands. They were divided in small quantities at short intervals, corresponding to the growth and necessities of the town and the ability of the owners to clear them up and place them under cultivation.

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## XI. BOWERS.

Morgan Bowers came from that part of Saybrook which lay east of the river, and is now Lyme. His home-lot in these Lyme grants was on, or near Black Point, and had been in his possession about five years. Little is known concerning him, either before or after he removed to Norwich. He was on the jury of the county court in 1667, and again in 1680. No trace is found of wife or children, but probably he had both. It was disreputable at that period for a man without a family to live as a householder by himself. In his old age, however, he seems to have been both lonely and infirm.

The following notice is recorded in 1701 :

“Morgan Bowers being unable to take care of and relieve himself, desireth the town would please to take care of him, and what estate he hath, that it should be disposed of at the discretion of some persons appointed by the town, for his maintenance.”

The town accordingly appointed Lieut. Wm. Backus, Ensign Thomas Waterman, and Sergeant Caleb Abel, “to take care of the said Morgan Bowers, and provide for him as his need requireth, by improving his own estate for that end as far as it will go, and for want of estate of his own to provide for him on the town account.”

Nothing later has been found respecting him.



## XII. BRADFORD.

John Bradford was the son of William Bradford, the Pilgrim Governor of Plymouth Colony. His mother was Dorothy May, the earliest of our May-flowers, the herald of those that give fragrance to the airs of spring, and the graceful prototype of the white-winged bark that bore her and the pioneers of freedom over the ocean.\*

Dorothy May was the first wife of Governor Bradford. She embarked with her husband for the Promised Land,—but, like Moses, only saw it at a distance. After the vessel had anchored in Cape Cod Harbor, she fell overboard and was drowned, Dec. 7, 1620, her husband being absent at the time in a boat or shallop exploring the coast and selecting a place for a settlement.

John Bradford was not the companion of his parents in this voyage, and it is not ascertained when he came to this country. Very little is known of his early history, for neither Morton nor Prince, the earliest authorities respecting Plymouth Colony, give any hint of the existence of this son of Gov. Bradford.

He was of Duxbury in 1645; afterwards of Marshfield, and deputy to the General Court from both places. He married Martha, daughter of Thomas Bourne of Marshfield, but had no children. Of the circumstances which led him to leave the old colony and unite with the people of Saybrook in founding a new plantation in the Mohegan wilderness, we are ignorant. But it may be supposed that the project originated through acquaintanceship and frequent intercourse with Mr. Jonathan Brewster, who had so greatly benefited his outward condition by a similar change ten years before. The two friends, however, if such they were, never enjoyed the pleasures of friendly neighborhood, as Mr. Brewster was laid in his grave before Mr. Bradford left the old colony.

The home-lot of the latter in Norwich bears the date of the oldest proprietors, 1659, and it is probable that he soon removed to the spot. His farm in Duxbury was sold by "John Bradford, gentleman," to Christopher Wadsworth, in 1664.

Mr. Bradford was one of the *townsmen* of Norwich in 1671, but his name seldom occurs on the records. His will was exhibited at the County Court in September, 1676. His widow married, after a short interval, her opposite neighbor, Lieut. Thomas Tracy. The period of her death is not ascertained, but the Lieutenant was living with a third wife in 1683.

After Mr. Bradford's death, his homestead reverted to his nephew, Thomas Bradford, who sold it, April 2, 1691, to Simon Huntington, Jr.,

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\* Was not the vessel her namesake?

describing it as "my home lot in Norwich with my new dwelling house and pasture adjoining,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  acres, more or less, abutting on the town street,  $19\frac{1}{2}$  rods." The price was £50 in country pay, or £25 in money.\*

About this time Thomas Bradford engaged, in connection with his brother-in-law, Nehemiah Smith of New London, (son of N. S., senior, of Norwich,) in a large land purchase, made of Joseph and Jonathan Bull of Hartford. This land lay on the west side of Nahantic Bay, and was called the Soldier Farm, having been originally granted by the Legislature to five of Capt. Maser's soldiers for services in the Pequot war. On the northern portion of this tract, was a farm of about two hundred acres, where Thomas Bradford settled. His house was not far from the north-western corner of New London, as the bounds were then understood. It would now fall within the town of Salem.

Thomas Bradford was a son of Major William Bradford of Plymouth. He died in 1708.

Two of Major Bradford's daughters, own sisters of Thomas, found partners among the inhabitants of Norwich. Alice, relict of Rev. Wm. Adams of Dedham, who became the second wife of Major James Fitch; and Melatiah, who married John Steele, then a resident of the town.

Joseph Bradford, another of the fifteen children of Major William of Plymouth, also came to Connecticut. He married Anna, the youngest daughter of the Rev. James Fitch, and settled first in Lebanon. After the death of his wife, he made important purchases in the Mohegan territory, between Norwich and New London, and removed to this new field in 1716. The district in which he settled was then the North Parish of New London, but is now the town of Montville.

The births of ten children of Joseph and Anna Bradford are recorded at Lebanon,—one son, Joseph, and nine daughters. Among them are three couplets, or pairs of twins. He had also, by a second wife, a son John, born May 20, 1717, at Mohegan.

Mr. Bradford was the only son of Major William Bradford by his second wife, who was the widow Wiswall. From his grave-stone in the Montville Cemetery, we learn that he was born in 1675.

"In memory of Lieutenant Joseph Bradford, who died Jany. 16, 1647, in the 73d. year of his age."

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\* Three Huntington houses were afterwards built on this lot, and still retain their places. They were occupied for many years by the brothers, Andrew, Joshua, and Ebenezer, sons of General Jabez Huntington.



## XIII. HUGH CALKINS.

Hugh Calkins (or Caulkins\*) was one of a body of emigrants, called the Welsh Company, that came to New England in 1640, from Chepstow in Monmouthshire, on the border of Wales, with their minister, the Rev. Mr. Blinman. The larger portion of this company settled first at Marshfield, but soon transferred their residence to Gloucester, upon the rough promontory of Cape Ann. From thence, after eight years of experiment, most of them removed to New London, hoping probably to find lands more arable and productive, and allured also by affectionate attachment to Mr. Blinman, whom Mr. Winthrop had invited to his plantation.

Hugh Calkins was, in 1650, deputy from Gloucester to the General Court of Massachusetts, and chosen again in 1651, but removing early in that year to New London, the vacancy was filled by another election.

While living at New London, he was chosen twelve times deputy to the Connecticut Assembly, (the elections being semi-annual,) and was one of the townsmen, or select-men, invariably, from 1652 till he removed to Norwich.

From Norwich he was deputy at ten sessions of the Legislature, between March, 1663, and October, 1671, and was one of the first deacons of the Norwich church. At each of the three towns in which he was an early settler and proprietor, he was largely employed in public business, being usually appointed one of committees for consultation, for fortifying, drafting soldiers, settling difficulties, and particularly for surveying lands and determining boundaries. These offices imply a considerable range of information, as well as activity and executive talent, yet he seems to have had no early education, uniformly making only a bold H for his signature.

In a deposition made in 1672, he stated that he was then 72 years of age. The year 1600 may therefore be taken as the date of his birth. Of his wife, we only know that her name was Ann. Six children have been traced, four of whom were probably born before the emigration to this country.

Sarah, supposed to be the oldest child, was married at Gloucester, Oct. 28, 1645, to William Hough. This couple removed in 1651 to New London, and several of their descendants afterwards settled in Norwich and its vicinity.

Mary was married at Gloucester, Nov. 8, 1649, to Hugh Roberts; and these also followed the fortunes of the family to New London.

Rebecca died at Gloucester, March 14, 1651.

Deborah was born at Gloucester, March 18, 1643-4, and is the only

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\* The name appears on the early records, written indifferently, with or without the u, and with or without the final s.

one of the children the date of whose birth has been ascertained. She married Jonathan Royce, one of the first band of Norwich proprietors.

The two sons of Hugh Calkins were John and David. The former removed with his father to Norwich. David remained in New London.

Deacon Hugh Calkins died in 1690, aged about 90 years.

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#### XIV. JOHN CALKINS.

John Calkins, the oldest son of Hugh, was probably born about 1634. He was old enough to be summoned to work, with other settlers, on the mill-dam at New London in 1652. He married, at New London, Sarah, daughter of Robert Royce, and his oldest child, Hugh, was born at that place before the removal to Norwich.

John Calkins was one of the selectmen of Norwich in 1671, and on the jury of the county court so late as 1691. He died Jan. 8, 1702-3. Sarah, his relict, died May 1, 1711, aged 77 years. They had three daughters that lived to maturity, Sarah, Mary, and Elizabeth, who married in the same order, Thomas Baldwin, Samuel Gifford, and Samuel Hyde.

They had also three sons, older than the daughters:

1. Hugh, born in June, 1659, married Sarah, daughter of Thomas Sluman and step-daughter of Solomon Tracy. She died in 1703, and he married, second, Lois Standish, probably daughter of Capt. Josiah Standish of Preston.

He had five children, and left them at his death what was then considered a large estate. After providing for the widow, the oldest son had a double portion, and the others inherited equal shares of £203 10s.\*

#### INSCRIPTION UPON HIS GRAVE-STONE.

S E R T H V G H  
C A L K I N G S D Y E D  
S E P T R 1 5 . 1 7 2 2  
I N Y E 6 3 D Y E A R  
O F H I S A G E .

2. John, the second son of the proprietor John, born in July, 1661,—probably the third male child born in Norwich,—married Abigail Birchard, Oct. 23, 1690, and subsequently removed to Lebanon. He was the first constable of that town, chosen at its organization, May 31, 1698, and corporal of the first militia company, 1700.

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\* The inventory of his effects, taken a few days after his death, mentions the articles of honey, beeswax, butter, cider, and metheglin, which shows the variety of domestic produce of that day. Metheglin was a favorite beverage of the old inhabitants.



His youngest son, James, born April 29, 1702, is on the list of Yale College graduates as *Mr. Jacobus Calking*, 1725. He was an ordained minister, and officiated as such for several years, but afterwards settled as a farmer in the western district of Norwich, where he died in 1756.

3. Samuel, the third son of John, settled in Lebanon. Stephen, the son of Samuel, born in 1706, was an active, stalwart, enterprising farmer, famous in his time as a cattle-drover or horse-courser. He may be traced by deeds, and town and court records, as a resident at Norwich, New London, Lyme, Lebanon, and finally at Sharon, Ct., where several of his sons settled, and from whence, after the Revolutionary war, his descendants spread into western New York.

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#### XV. EDGERTON.

No earlier notice is obtained of Richard Edgerton, than the date of his marriage, which is recorded at Saybrook, but without naming the wife. The omission is supplied by the ampler details at Norwich. Richard Edgerton and Mary Sylvester were married April 7, 1653. The birth of three daughters is registered at Saybrook, reaching to September, 1659, and in November of that year we have the date of his house-lot at Norwich.

In this new home, six other children are added to the list, four of them sons, John, Richard, Samuel, and Joseph, each of whom became the head of a family.

Richard, the proprietor, served at different periods as townsman and constable. He died in March, 1692.

John Edgerton, one of the earliest-born sons of Norwich, (b. June 12, 1662,) married Mary Reynolds, and died soon afterward, leaving an infant son John, afterward known as Lieut. John Edgerton, the father of Capt. Elisha Edgerton of the Revolutionary period.

Richard Edgerton, 2d, married Elizabeth Scudder, Jan. 4, 1692. He died in 1729, and his aged relict in 1762.

Samuel Edgerton married Alice Ripley, and died in 1748. Captain James Edgerton, a noted ship-master of New London, who died in 1842, was a descendant of this couple.

Joseph, the youngest son of the proprietor, was one of the original planters of Lebanon.

## XVI. GAGER.

William Gager came to America in 1630, with Gov. Winthrop, but died the same year from a disease contracted by ill diet at sea, which swept off many of the emigrants. He is characterized by cotemporary journalists as "a skilful surgeon, a right godly man, and one of the deacons of our congregation."\* His son John, the only child that has been traced,† was one of the company that settled at New London with John Winthrop the younger.‡ His name is there found on the earliest extant list of inhabitants.

He had a grant from the town of New London, of a farm of two hundred acres,§ east of the river, near the straits, (now in Ledyard,) to which he removed soon after 1650, and there dwelt until he joined in the settlement of Norwich and removed thither. His house-lot in the new town bears the date of the oldest surveys, viz., November, 1659. He was constable of Norwich in 1674 and 1688.

His oldest son, born in September, 1647, who in 1688 is styled "John Gager of New London, son to John, Sen. of Norwich," died in 1691, without issue.

The will of John Gager, the proprietor, dated Dec. 21, 1695, has the descriptive passage, "being now aged and full of days;" but he lived eight years longer, dying Dec. 10, 1703. His will provides for wife Elizabeth, bequeathes all real estate to "only son Samuel," and adds "to my six sons that married my daughters, viz. John Allyn, Daniel Brewster, Jeremiah Ripley, Simon Huntington, Joshua Abel and Caleb Forbes,|| twenty shillings each, having already given their wives considerable portions in moveables and lands."

It was much the custom in those days for men who had children arrived at maturity, to become in great part their own executors, distributing their estates by deed and assignment before death, reserving only a needful portion for themselves, to be disposed of afterwards. This accounts for

\* See Prince's Chronology, 1630; also, Life and Letters of John Winthrop.

† Gov. Winthrop, in a letter of Nov. 29, 1630, says: "I have lost twelve of my family,"—and among them enumerates Mr. Gager and his wife and two children.

Savage's Winthrop, App. Vol. I.

‡ The elder Gov. Winthrop remembered him in the following item of his last will and testament:

"I will that John Gager shall have a cow, one of the best I shall have, in recompense of a heifer his father bought of me, and two ewe goats, and ten bushels of indian corn." Sav. Winth., App. Vol. II.

§ Sold in 1696 to Ralph Stoddard.

|| Had he mentioned the names of the wives in the order of their age, they would have been, Elizabeth Allyn, Sarah Forbes, Bethiah Abel, Lydia Huntington, Hannah Brewster, and Mary Ripley.



the slenderness of many ancient inventories. That of John Gager in 1703 amounted to £49 16s.

Among the items enumerated are,—

One great Bibell.

One white-faced stag.

This last we may imagine to have been a domestic pet of the old people. Several articles are mentioned belonging to the old-fashioned fireplace, which the modern use of stove, furnace and range has rendered almost obsolete; such as,—

*Two tramills, a peal and tongs.*

*A snit, warming-pan and andirons.*

A *peal* (or *peel*) was a large flat shovel used to draw bread from the oven. A common shovel was often termed a *slice*, and *snit* was probably used for snuffers.\*

Other articles that seem antique and homely to the present generation, were porringers, wooden trenchers, and syllabub pots.

Many curious things are found in these old inventories,—very common articles are *canns*, of pewter or silver, piggins, keelers, pewter basins, and a cow-bell.

Samuel Gager, only surviving son of John, born Feb., 1654, married Rebecca (Lay), relict of Daniel Raymond of New London, in 1695. He was a man of good repute and considerable estate, a resident in the parish of New Concord, but interred at his own request, as heretofore stated, in the old neglected grave-yard of the first-comers, in the town-plot, where some fragments of the stone may yet remain.

William Gager, one of the sons of Samuel, born in 1704, graduated at Yale College in 1721, and in 1725 was settled in the pastoral office at Lebanon. He died in 1739.

Othniel Gager, who has held the office of Town Clerk in Norwich for the last quarter of a century, is of the sixth generation in descent from the first proprietor, in the line of John, oldest son of Samuel.

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## XVII. GIFFORD.

Stephen Gifford's first marriage was with Hannah Gove, in May, 1667. She died Jan. 24, 1670-1, leaving two children, Samuel and Hannah. He married, second, Hannah, daughter of John Gallop of Stonington, May 12, 1672. Four children are subsequently recorded to him,—John, Ruth, Stephen, and Aquilla.

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\* See *snite* in Webster.

The proprietor and his second wife lived together more than half a century, and died the same year. Twin head-stones of rough granite record their decease.

M R  
S T E P H E N   G I F F  
O R D   D Y E D   N O V R  
27. 1724. A G E D  
83   Y E R S.

M R S  
H A N N A H   G I F  
F O R D   D Y E D   J A N Y  
20. 1724. A G E D  
79   Y E R S.

Samuel Gifford removed to Lebanon in 1692, and there died, Aug. 26, 1714. The two daughters of Stephen, the proprietor, also settled in Lebanon, as the wives of Samuel Calkins and Jeremiah Fitch. John, Stephen and Aquilla Gifford, sons of the first proprietor, were inhabitants of Norwich in 1736. They left descendants, and the name has continued on the rolls of freemen and among the substantial farmers of the neighborhood to the present day.

#### XVIII. GRISWOLD.

The brothers Matthew and Edward Griswold were natives of Kenilworth, in Warwickshire, England.\* The latter, according to a deposition in the State Records at Hartford, was born in 1607. The date of their emigration to this country has not been ascertained. Edward is found at Windsor not long after 1640, and is supposed to have brought with him from England a wife, Margaret, and several children, others being added to the group in this country. In 1664 he removed to Killingworth, as one of the leaders in the settlement of that place, and was its first magistrate. It may be inferred also that he stood sponsor when the name was given, Killingworth, or Killinsworth, answering to the popular pronunciation of his native place in England.

Lieut. Francis Griswold, the Norwich proprietor, was a son of Edward

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\* Copy of a deposition made by George Griswold of Killingworth:

“George Griswold, about 61, testifieth—

“That in his youthful years he lived with his father in England, in a town called Killinsworth in Warwickshire—he did several times since heare his father Edward Griswold say that the house he then lived in and lands belonging thereto was his brother Matthew Griswolds and have lately seen and read a letter under the hand of Thomas Griswold of Killinsworth abovesd, directed to his brother Matthew Griswold aforesd, wherein the said Thomas Griswold intimated that he did then live in the abovesd house, belonging to his said brother Matthew aforesd.

Sworn before Joseph Curtiss, Assistant.

May 9, 1700.”



and Margaret, born about 1632. He appears to have been a man of capacity and enterprise, and took an active part in the affairs of the plantation, serving as representative to the General Court for eleven sessions, beginning October, 1664, and ending May, 1671.

It is not known when he was married, or to whom. Not even the household name of his wife is found in the records at Saybrook or Norwich. At the former place is the following registry:

“Children of Francis Grisell. Saraw b. 28 March, 1653. Joseph, b. 4 June 1655, d. the latter end of July, the same year. Mary, b. 26 August 1656: Hanna, b. 11 December, 1658.”

From Norwich records:

“Some of the children of Lieut. Griswold dec’d. Deborah born in May 1661. Lydia in June 1663 and died in 1664. Samuel in Sept. 1665. Margaret in October 1668. Lydia in October 1671.”

Lieut. Griswold died the same month, October, 1671,—cut down apparently by some sudden attack of disease, leaving seven of the above-named children, varying in age from an infant of days to eighteen years.

Thomas Adgate and John Post, Sen., acted as guardians to the younger children. The daughters were very early provided with eligible partners.

Sarah was married to Robert Chapman of Saybrook, June 27, 1671.

Mary to Jonathan Tracy, July 11, 1672; second marriage to Eleazer Jewett, Sept. 3, 1717.

Hannah to William Clark of Saybrook, March 7, 1678.

Deborah to Jonathan Crane, Dec. 19, 1678.

Margaret to Thomas Buckingham, oldest son of the Rev. Thomas Buckingham of Saybrook, Dec. 16, 1691.

Samuel Griswold became a married man at the age of twenty, following his sisters in the flowing stream of youthful connections. Young people in those days, scarcely waiting to reach maturity, chose their partners and marched on with rapid and joyous steps to the temple of Hymen. The companion of Samuel Griswold was Susannah, daughter of Christopher Huntington, and the wedding took place on her 17th birth-day, Dec. 10, 1685.

About the middle of the 18th century, a branch of the Griswold family of Norwich removed to Sharon, Ct. It consisted of three brothers, Francis, Daniel, and Adonijah, grandsons of Capt. Samuel Griswold. Capt. Adonijah Griswold was in the army of the Revolution.

The grave-stone of Capt. Samuel Griswold has the following epitaph:

Here lies interred ye  
Remains of Capt. Sam  
uel Griswold the first  
Captain of the 2d  
Company of train bands  
in Norwich. He was  
born in Norwich  
Septr 1665 and died  
on ye 9th day of  
Decembr 1740 in  
the 76<sup>th</sup> year  
of his age.

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### XIX. HENDY.

This name is identical with Hendé, Hendys, and Handy. Richard Hendy seems to have been one of the first purchasers of Norwich, and to have had an early allotment in the neighborhood of the town-plot. He also shared in the first divisions of land, but there is no evidence of his actual residence at any time in the settlement. In 1660 and '61 a person of this name was at work upon vessels at New London and Newport. A Richard Handy, four or five years later, was proprietor of a mill built by John Elderkin on the Menunkatesuck river at Killingworth, and died at that place, Aug. 4, 1670. This mill at Killingworth, and fifty acres of land on Westward Hill in Norwich, were among his assets.\* The same year the townsmen of Norwich directed that the children of Richard Hendy, deceased, should have a share in the divisions of common land equal with other proprietors. From these and other concurrent facts, it is evident that Richard *Hendy*, the Norwich proprietor, and Richard *Handy*, of Killingworth, were one and the same person.

Hannah, the wife of Richard Handy, was a daughter of John Elderkin. Only three children appear as heirs, Jonathan, Richard, and Hannah. Elderkin was their guardian, and settled the estate. Richard lived in the family of Elderkin, and became an inhabitant of Norwich. Hannah married Samuel Belding of Wethersfield, Jan. 14, 1685.

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\* Conn. Col. Rec., 2, 191.

† The author is indebted for this fact and other information concerning Richard Handy of Killingworth, to R. D. Smith, Esq., of Guilford. Miss Sally Handy, the last of the name in Guilford, died Feb. 28, 1849, almost a centenarian. She was born March 20, 1750.



## XX. HOWARD.

The house-lot of Thomas Howard has the same date as those of Fitch and Mason. Of his antecedent history no information has been obtained. His family registry at Norwich is as follows :

"Thomas Howard and Mary Wellman were married in January, 1666. Children : Mary born in Dec. 1667. Sarah in Feb. 1669. Martha in Feb. 1672, and died one month after. Thomas born in March 1673, and Benjamin in June 1675."

Thomas Howard was slain at the Narragansett fort fight, Dec. 17, 1675. The County Court settled the estate in the following manner : to the relict twenty-four pounds, with a third of the profits of the lands during life ; to Thomas, sixty pounds ; to Benjamin, thirty-two ; to Mary, thirty-two ; to Sarah, thirty. John Calkins and John Birchard to be overseers.

In August, 1677, Mrs. Howard became the wife of William Moore, and removed with him to Windham, where Mr. Moore died, April 28, 1728, aged 87.

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HUNTINGTON.

The Huntington pedigree offers a good illustration of the uncertainty of tradition, even when the details appear to have been carefully preserved, and the lapse of time is not more than a century. The Rev. Joseph Huntington, of Coventry, Ct., of the fourth generation from the first emigrant, collected and embodied the reminiscences that had been preserved in the family concerning their progenitor, which were in substance these :

That the ancestor of the family, Simon Huntington, was a citizen of Norwich in England, who, during the reign of Charles the First, (about 1640,) embarked with his wife and three sons for America ; that he was a Puritan, suffering from persecution, but had a brother Samuel who was captain of the king's life-guard, and high in the royal favor ; that the said Simon Huntington was nearly fifty years of age, his wife some years younger, and their three sons, Christopher, Simon, and Samuel, in the bloom of youth ; and that they made their course for the mouth of Connecticut river. "But our progenitor, (says the MS.,) being seized with a violent fever and dysentery, died within sight of the shore ; whither he was brought, and now lies buried, either in Saybrook or Lyme, as both towns were but one at first."

The above statement was long unquestioned, and has been repeated and perpetuated in various narratives and historical annals. It is, how-

ever, ascertained from authentic documents that the family arrived at an earlier date and upon a different part of the coast, and the other incidents mentioned have not been substantiated by later inquiries.

The church record at Roxbury, Mass., contains the following entry, in the hand-writing of the Rev. John Eliot, who was then the minister of that place :

“Margaret Huntington, widow, came in 1633. Her husband died by the way, of the small pox. She brought —— children with her.”

The rest is left blank. The name of the husband is not mentioned, nor the names or number of the children, but the record makes it evident that this emigrant family landed in Massachusetts and not at Saybrook, and if the husband was buried on the coast, it was more likely to be on Nantasket beach than on the banks of the Connecticut.

The widow Margaret Huntington united with Roxbury church, and is afterward found at Windsor, Ct., as the wife of Thomas Stoughton, the family having removed thither in 1635 or '36.

Tradition is uniform in naming the husband who died on the voyage, Simon, and a letter registered in an ancient volume of Connecticut Records that has been recently brought to light,\* enables us to settle some points respecting this Huntington family, that were formerly left doubtful; viz., the number of the children, the order of seniority of the sons, and the maiden name of the mother.

This letter, written from Norwich, England, April 20, 1650, and addressed to “Cozen Christopher Huntington,” acknowledges a letter from him dated at *Seabrook*, Sept. 20, 1649, and is signed,

“Your loving uncle,

PETER BARET.”

It relates principally to the disposition to be made of certain remittances that had been forwarded by the writer to his *brother Stawton*, [Stoughton,] amounting to £140, which he directs to be divided in certain proportions, as his gift, between the three brothers and their sister Ann.†

We learn from this letter that the children of Margaret Huntington were four in number: three sons, Christopher, Simon, and Thomas, apparently in this order of seniority, and a daughter Ann, whose position in

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\* C. J. Hoadly, Esq., State Librarian, has recovered a long-missing volume of the Records of the Particular and Probate Court from 1650 to 1663, and two volumes of Land and Miscellaneous Records, 1640 to 1656, whose existence was not known. In one of these latter volumes, the letter referred to is found.

† William Huntington, who settled at Salisbury, Mass., is the ancestor of a distinct line of Huntingtons. His relationship, if there was any, with the family of the widow Margaret, has not been ascertained.



the line is uncertain. The whole group, at the time of their emigration, were probably under eight years of age.

The letter shows also that the mother of the family was originally Margaret Baret, of Norwich, Eng. From Bloomfield's History of that ancient town, we learn that Christopher Baret was Mayor of Norwich in 1634, and again in 1648. It is not unlikely that this Mayor was the father or a near relative of Margaret, and that from him the oft-repeated name of Christopher first crept into the Huntington nomenclature.

Of the daughter, Ann, nothing further is known. We may presume that her uncle's marriage dowry of £27 would assist in settling her eligibly in life, and we may yet obtain some fortunate hint that will show into what family she was ingrafted.

Thomas Huntington, though apparently the youngest of the brothers,\* was the first admitted to political privileges. He was made a freeman by the General Court at Hartford in May, 1657; Christopher in May, 1658; Simon, not till after his settlement in Norwich, 1663.

Thomas Huntington was one of the company that first purchased and settled Newark in New Jersey. This company was gathered from the towns on the southern coast of Connecticut, from Milford to New London inclusive, and had the Rev. Abraham Pierson for their spiritual guide. Previous to their departure from Connecticut, a body of the planters met at Branford, and adopted, Oct. 30, 1660, certain "fundamental agreements touching their intended design." This was signed by twenty-three "heads of families," of whom Thomas Huntington was one.

He is subsequently traced at Newark, as sergeant of the train-band in 1675; afterward, as one of the seven townsmen to whom the municipal affairs of the plantation were intrusted, and finally as deputy to the Assembly in 1658.† He had a son, Samuel, who continued the line in New Jersey.

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## XXI. CHRISTOPHER HUNTINGTON.

Christopher and Simon Huntington probably settled at Saybrook as soon as they attained their majority. Christopher was there in 1649, apparently engaged in trade, and had written to his uncle Baret in England, for consignments of cloth and shot. In 1651, he was one of five persons who seized a Dutch vessel that was on the coast trading illegally.

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\* From the letter of his uncle, Peter Baret, in 1650, Thomas seems to have been the only one of the children then under age. He directs that the bonus of Thomas shall "be put into some good hand and security taken for it, till he become able to employ it," while the others receive their shares at once. Thomas was probably 16 or 17 years of age.

† Gen. Hist. Reg., 8, 186.

with the Indians. He married Ruth, daughter of William Rockwell of Windsor, Oct. 7, 1652. They lost one child, and perhaps more than one, in infancy, and when the removal to Norwich took place, the parents had only their little daughter, Ruth, to carry through the wilderness. But a blessing soon descended upon their new home; a son was born, a second Christopher, Nov. 1st, 1660.\*

*The first born male in Norwich.*

The children of Christopher Huntington were subsequently increased to seven in number, while Simon had a family of ten. They both lived to embrace their children's children, and to see the family hives swarm and emigrants pass off to alight in the woods and wastes of Windham, Mansfield, and Lebanon.

Thomas, the second son, born in 1664, was one of the early settlers of Windham.

Christopher Huntington, 1st, died in 1691, as is indicated by the probate of his estate that year. No other record gives the date. He was probably buried in the Gager and Post burial-ground, and no stone marks his grave.

The second Christopher Huntington, the first-born son of Norwich, executed the office of Town Clerk and Recorder for twenty years, and was deacon of the church from 1696 to 1735.

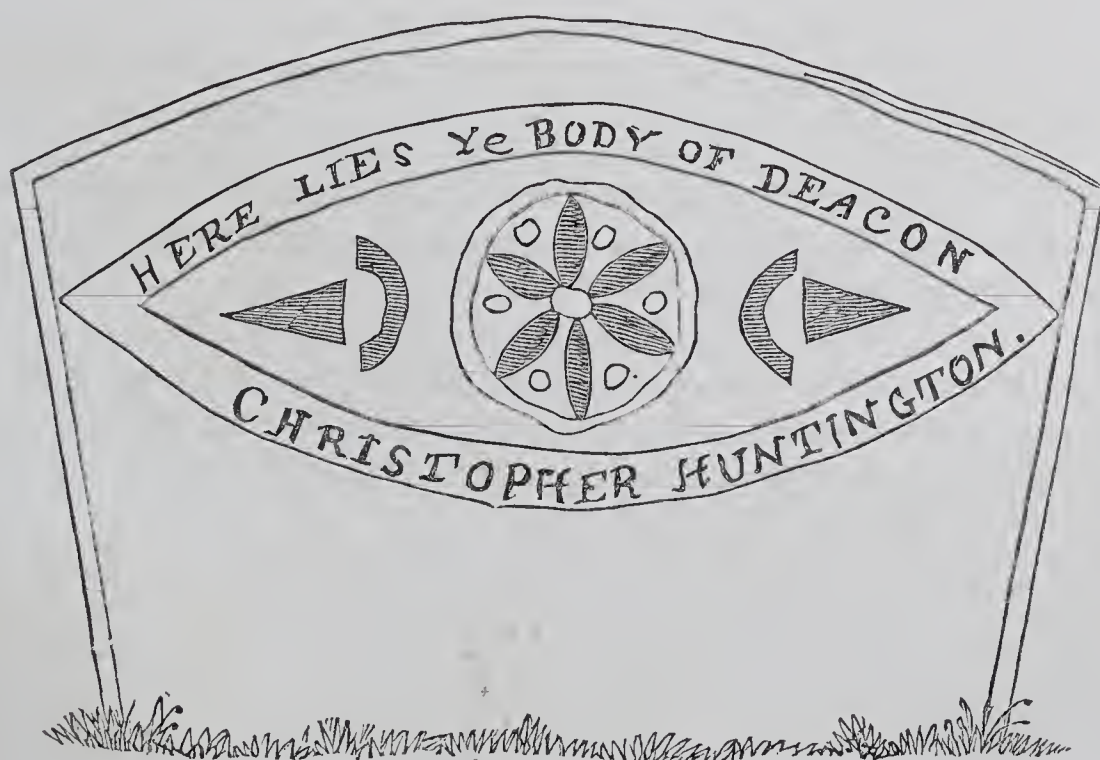
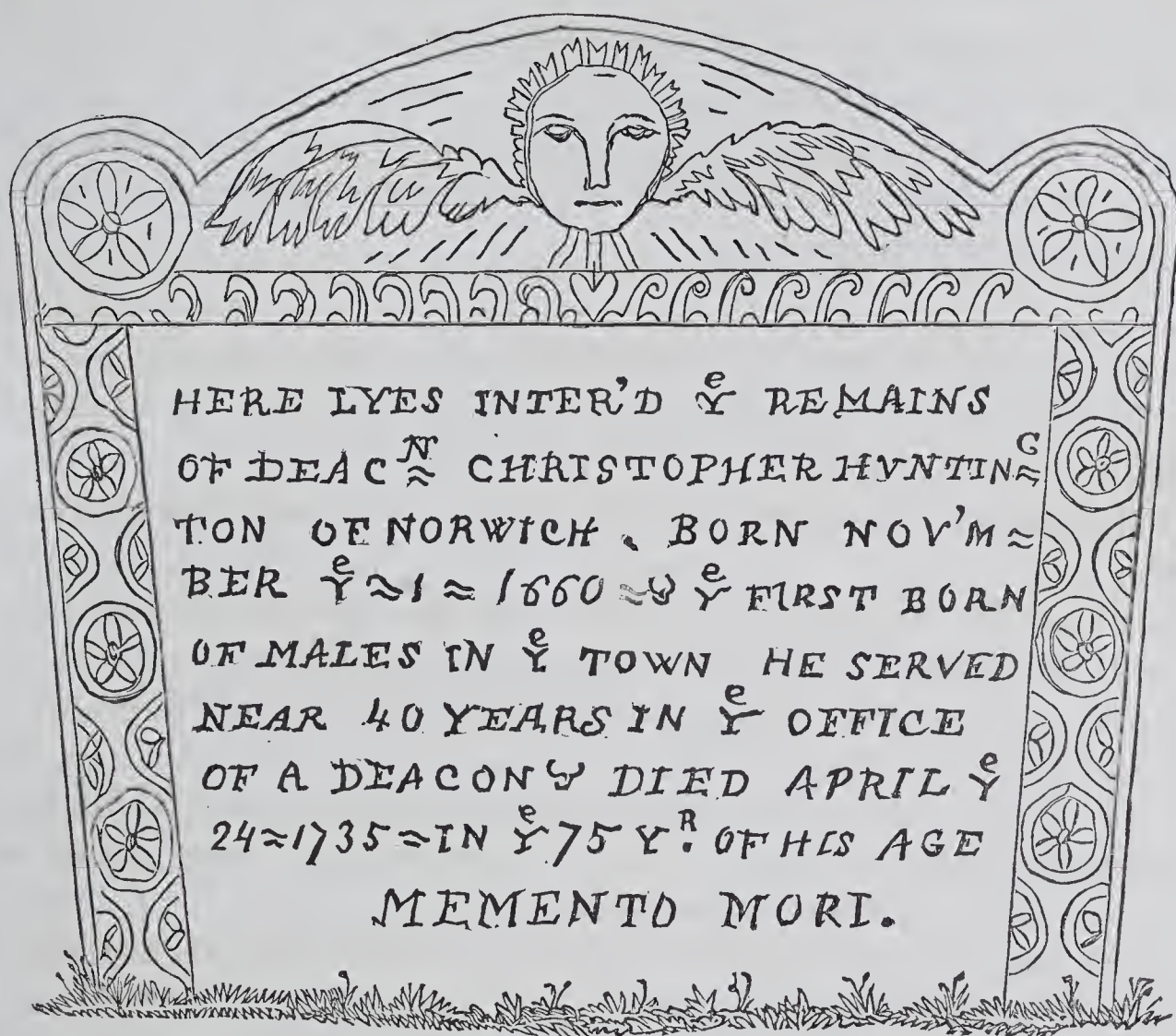
The two wives of Deacon Christopher were Sarah Adgate, and Judith, widow of Jonathan Brewster. He had a family of twelve children; seven sons and four daughters survived him. His oldest child, Ruth, was the mother of Dr. Eleazer Wheelock, the founder of the first Indian school at Lebanon, and the first President of Dartmouth College.

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\* What a pleasant excitement this event must have caused in the young plantation! The inhabitants, well housed, with plenty of corn, beans and pumpkins in store, (not to mention acorns, for coffee,) were reposing after the toils of the first arduous season, and had leisure to engage in huskings, nuttings, oyster-parties, neighborly visits, and conference-meetings. And lo! a child of promise appears, the herald of a numerous race. Norwich has not only daughters, but *a son*, to whom the right of primogeniture belongs. How swiftly the news passes from house to house! What congratulations and kindly inquiries are dropped at the door. What lively sallies are indulged, and adventurous calculations made respecting future rates of increase, and conjectures how the population will stand ten, twenty, or a hundred years hence! What a thronging to the baptism of the little Christopher. He is wrapped perhaps in some sacred child-blanket brought from England, which is kept as a venerated relic of ancestral drapery. The blessed Mr. Fitch performs the ceremony with so much unction, that the audience is moved, and the women in little mob caps wipe their eyes. As they go out of meeting, one says to another, "A precious sarмонт!" or, perhaps, "A solemn sarcumstance!"—while a young damsel whispers to her companion, "Didn't he look *peert* for such a young one? I wish Christenings would come every Sunday!"



Slabs of gray stone, broad, low, and quaintly carved, point out the spot where this worthy deacon, the son of the wilderness, was laid.



Christopher Huntington, 3d, was born in 1686. Christopher Huntington, 4th, born in 1719, was a physician in the parish of New Concord. These four Christophers were in the direct line, each the *oldest* son of his father, but the fifth Christopher was the *youngest* son of the fourth. He succeeded his father as a physician in New Concord, or Bozrah, where he died in 1821. His oldest son, the sixth Christopher, settled in Hartford, where he died in 1834, and with him the direct line of the Christophers ends, other names in the family of the last-mentioned Christopher taking the place of the old heir loom.

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## XXII. SIMON HUNTINGTON.

The title of *Deacon* became very early a familiar appendage to the name of Huntington. Out of twenty deacons of the first church, seven have been Huntingtons,\* six of whom held the office over thirty years each. In the line of Simon, the deaconship descended from father to son through four successive generations, Simon, 1st, Simon, 2d, Ebenezer, and Simon, 3d, covering a period of 120 years. Deacon Barnabas Huntington of Franklin was also a progenitor of deacons.† Other churches in the vicinity have been prone to select their ministering servants from the same cognomen. Near the close of the last century there were six Deacon Huntingtons officiating at one period, in as many different parishes of Norwich and the neighboring towns.

Simon Huntington, the proprietor, was united to Sarah, daughter of Joseph Clarke of Saybrook, in October, 1653. They lived together fifty-three years, and she survived him fifteen, dying in 1721, at the age of 88. This was probably the earliest, but not the only one of the first thirty-five wedded pairs, that could have celebrated the golden period of their conubial life, if at that day such festivals had been in vogue.

Deacon Simon left an estate appraised at £275. The inventory of his books may be worth quoting as a specimen of what was doubtless a fair library for a layman in 1706.

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\* Eight, if we include the first Christopher Huntington, who is usually placed on the list; but there does not appear to be any contemporary evidence that he held the office. The statement is derived from minutes made by Dr. Lord, in which the first Christopher was probably confounded with the second.

† "The old Franklin homestead was for a long period in the possession of deacons, and what is not a little remarkable, these deacons, each in his day and generation, kept tavern under the sign of the Seven Stars, which shone with steady lustre for the benefit and bountiful cheer of wayfarers on the old Lebanon road." Speech of Hon. Asahel Huntington of Salem, Mass., at the Huntington Gathering at Norwich, Sept. 3, 1857.



"A great Bible 10s. Another great bible 8s. Rogers his seven treatises, 5s. A practical Catechise 1s. 6d. William Dyer, 1s. Mr. Moody's Book 8d. Thomas Hooker's Doubting Christian, 9d. New England Psalm Book, 1s. Mr. Adams' Sermon. The bound book of Mr. Fitch and John Rogers 2s. The same unbound 8d. The day of doom 10d."

At the time of Deacon Simon's death, his six sons and three daughters were all heads of families. His sons-in-law were Solomon Tracy, Dea. Caleb Forbes of Preston, and Joseph Backus. Four of his sons, Simon, Nathaniel, Daniel, and James, settled near their parents, in Norwich, though not all in one parish. Joseph went to Windham, and Samuel to Lebanon.

The oldest son, Simon, born in Saybrook before the removal to Norwich, married Lydia Gager, Oct. 8, 1683, and had four children. The oldest of these, bearing his own name, the third Simon in direct descent, was the person killed by the bite of a rattlesnake just after he became of age, as previously related in this work.

This second Deacon Simon Huntington had two other sons, besides the one so suddenly removed, viz., Ebenezer and Joshua, and in the series descending from these are found several names of more than common distinction. The last-named son was born Dec. 30, 1698, and is known in local tradition as *Capt.* Joshua. He was a noted merchant, beginning business at nineteen, and pursuing it for twenty-seven years, during which time it is said that he traded more by sea and land than any other man in Norwich. In the prime of life, activity and usefulness, he took the yellow fever in New York, came home sick, and died the 27th of August, 1745, aged 47.\* He was the father of Gen. Jabez Huntington, of whom more will be said hereafter.

Among the Huntingtons of note in this and the neighboring towns, besides the clerks and deacons already mentioned, we might enumerate five or six judges of the common courts, five members of Congress, one of them President of the Continental Congress and Governor of the State, and six or seven who acquired the military rank of colonels and generals, one of them a brigadier-general in the army of the Revolution. Of the clergy, also, a considerable list of Huntingtons might be made without going out of New London county for their nativity.†

The name has also been widely disseminated in other States besides Connecticut, and rendered honorable by the talents and virtues of those who have borne it. But it is not on this account wholly that we give it special prominence in these details, but rather for this reason, that the

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\* His epitaph says, "Very justly lamented by the survivors."

† The Genealogical Memoir of the Huntington Family, published by Rev. E. B. Huntington of Stamford, is a work of great interest and value. It embodies the results of years of patient research, and is clear, full, and almost exhaustive in its details.

Huntingtons are the only family among the proprietors, with whom any connection has hitherto been traced with Norwich in England. As we have seen, Margaret Baret, the mother of Christopher and Simon Huntington, appears to have been a native of Norwich, and it is not improbable that her children were also born there.

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### XXIII. WILLIAM HYDE.

William Hide, or Hyde—the first mode of spelling being the most ancient—is found at Hartford before 1640, a resident and proprietor. The period of his emigration is not known. He removed to Saybrook, perhaps as early as 1648. His daughter Hester, who married John Post in 1652, probably came with her parents from the old world, but his son Samuel, born about 1636, may have been a native of Hartford. No other children are known.

On his removal to Norwich, he sold his house and home-lot to Francis Bushnell, and other property to Robert Lay.\* He died Jan. 6, 1681–2. His age is not known, but he was styled “old Goodman Hide” in 1679. His will was proved in the county court, June, 1682, and distribution ordered to the heirs of his son Samuel, and to his daughter Hester, wife of John Post.

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### XXIV. SAMUEL HYDE.

“The marriage of Samuel Hyde with Jane Lee was in June Anno Dom. 1659.”—  
[Norwich Records.]

Thomas Lee, an emigrant, coming from England with his family to settle in America, died on the passage. His wife, whose maiden name was Phebe Brown, with her three children, Thomas, Sarah, and Jane, completed the voyage, and are afterward found at Saybrook, or Lyme, where the relict married Greenfield Larrabee. Samuel Hyde’s wife was the step-daughter of Larrabee.

After the removal to Norwich, the younger Hyde appears to have formed at first but one family with his father, though he afterward settled

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\* The sales are registered at Saybrook, with the following receipt :

I William Hide of Mohegan do acknowledge to have received of Robert Lay of Six Mile Island the full and just sum of forty pounds which was the first payment specified in the agreement made 25th day of January 1659 for all the lands I had at Potapauge.

Witness my hand 5th of May 1660.

WILLIAM C C HIDE.  
his mark.



at the West Farms. In August, 1660, on the Hyde home-lot, in a newly erected habitation, standing upon the border of the wilderness, with a heavy forest growth in the rear, a new member, a welcome addition to the settlement, made her appearance. This was Elizabeth, daughter of Samuel and Jane Hyde,—

*The first child born of English parentage in Norwich.*

We may imagine that this little God-gift was fostered with tender care, and regarded with peculiar interest and favor by the community, as a token of prosperous import,—the herald of a new generation,—the promise and pledge of multiplied descendants.

In due time this first-born daughter of the town married Richard Lord, and removed to the sea-coast.

“Elizabeth the daughter of Richard and Elizabeth Lord was born Oct 28, 1683.”—  
[Lyme Records.]

So thickly the generations crowd upon each other,—mother, daughter, and grand-daughter, probably born within the compass of forty-five years.

Phebe, the second daughter of Samuel and Jane Hyde, born in January, 1663, married Matthew Griswold of Lyme. The two sisters were thus pleasantly settled in the old neighborhood of their mother, upon the border of the Sound. The Lees and Larrabees were at Giant's Neck, and the Griswolds at Black Hall,—two of the most conspicuous and eligible situations on that breezy portion of the coast.

Samuel Hyde did not live to see the settlement of his daughters. He died in 1677, leaving seven children, the youngest an infant, and all sons but the two daughters above mentioned. From various incidental references, it appears that his relict, Mrs. Jane Hyde, married John Birchard.

The five sons of Samuel Hyde were speedily multiplied into a numerous body of descendants.

1. Samuel married Elizabeth, daughter of John Calkins, Dec. 16, 1690. He lived first at West Farms, now Franklin, but removed to Windham, and afterward to Lebanon, where he died in 1742, aged 77.

He was the grandfather of Capt. Walter Hyde, whose monumental inscription in the Lebanon cemetery states that he joined the American army in 1776, with an independent company of which he had command, and died at Greenwich, Sept. 18, 1776, aged 41.

He was also the ancestor of Col. Elijah Hyde, a neighbor and friend of Gov. Trumbull, who commanded a regiment of light horse during the war for liberty, and was on duty with the northern army at the surrender of Burgoyne; and of Gen. Caleb Hyde, who at the period of the Revolution was a sheriff in Berkshire county, Mass., but afterward settled in western New York.

2. John Hyde, the second son of the proprietor Samuel, married Experience Abel. He lived upon a farm on Wawekus Hill. Though he himself died at the age of 60, his relict lived to be near 90, and their family of nine children all lived to be heads of families, six of them ranging in age from 77 to 90 years at their decease.

The longevity of this family is noticed as one illustration, out of many that might be brought, to show that life was not shortened by removal to a new country, but that the active, plain, frugal, and yet comfortable mode of living then prevalent,—the first hardships and hazards of a frontier life having passed away,—was favorable to health, strength, and long life.

3. William Hyde, the third son of the proprietor Samuel, inherited the homestead of his grandfather William, in the town-plot. The number of his days exceeded even those of his long-lived brothers. He died Aug. 8, 1759, in the 90th year of his age. His wife was Ann, daughter of Richard Bushnell, and of their ten children, nine left descendants.

William, their oldest son, born in 1702, was the first of the name of Hyde in this country to receive a collegiate education. He graduated at Yale in 1721, and entered immediately into a promising sphere of usefulness in his native town, but was early removed by death.\*

Two other sons of the second William built houses by the side of their father, upon portions of the original Hyde home-lot.

Richard Hyde, who built and occupied the stone house near his father, was a man in high local repute, as captain, justice, and judge. He was also popular as a social companion and a narrator of traditionary lore.†

Jedidiah, the third son of William, 2d, became a Separatist in religion, and was ordained in 1746 as a minister of that denomination.

Elisha, the fourth son of William, occupied the old homestead, and was the father of Elisha Hyde, Esq., third Mayor of Norwich city.

4 and 5. Thomas and Jabez, younger sons of Samuel the proprietor, settled at the West Farms, (Franklin,) where they died at the ages of 82 and 85 years. The late Judge Hyde of Norwich town, and Lewis Hyde of Yantic, are among the descendants of Jabez. Other branches of the same line are widely disseminated in western New York, Pennsylvania, and states yet farther west.

The five sons of the proprietor Samuel had forty children, of whom twenty-three were sons, and twenty-one married and reared families of children. This accounts for the rapidity with which the name spread

\* Hempstead's Diary has this notice :

June 11, 1738. "Received news of the death of William Hide Jun. of Norwich aged 35. He had 150 convulsion fitts in two days. He was brought up at the College and hath been Captain and justice of the peace many years."

† Elihu, second son of Richard, removed to Lebanon, N. H., and was one of the first magistrates of that town.



through the country,—a rapidity that seems unexampled when considered in connection with the fact that all are derived from Samuel, whose first son was born in May, 1665.

An enumeration made in 1779, showed upwards of twenty families of Hydes, numbering over 150 members, in the town-plot and western part of Norwich. And notwithstanding the removals to other parts of the country, the census of 1791 records thirteen families of the name in Franklin, and eight others in Norwich or its immediate vicinity.\*

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## XXV. LEFFINGWELL.

Thomas Leffingwell, according to minutes preserved among his descendants, was a native of Croxhall in England. The period of his emigration has not been ascertained. In his testimony before the Court of Commissioners at Stonington in 1705, he says he was acquainted with Uncas in the year 1637, and was knowing to the assistance rendered by the sachem to the English, then and ever after, during his life. According to his age as given in depositions, he must have been born about the year 1622,—therefore, at the time of the Pequot war, not more than fifteen or sixteen years of age.†

The earliest notices of his name connect him with Saybrook. From the Colonial records we learn that in March, 1650, a petition was presented “from the inhabitants of Saybrook by Matthew Griswold and Tho:

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\* Chancellor Walworth of Saratoga Springs is descended in equal degrees from William Hyde and Thomas Tracy, through their sons, Samuel Hyde and John Tracy, all of whom were original proprietors of Norwich. Apphia Hyde, of the fifth generation from William, 1st, daughter of the Rev. Jedidiah Hyde, the Separatist minister, and his wife, Jerusha Tracy, of the fifth generation from Thomas, 1st, married in 1782, Benjamin Walworth, a native of Groton. They settled at Bozrah, then a part of Norwich, but made an independent town in 1786. Reuben Hyde Walworth, the third of their ten children, was there born Oct. 26, 1788.

The Hyde Genealogy, published by Chancellor Walworth, is a work of great value in the line of family history, embodying a vast amount of pedigree, and displaying clearness of perception and skill in arrangement, as well as unwearied perseverance and accuracy in research. It forms a grand memorial record of paternity and lineage, spreading far and wide, but taking the Nine-Miles-Square of Norwich as the center from which it radiates. Such a work is a monument to perpetuate the name of the author, more lasting than statues of marble or pillars of granite.

† A tradition has obtained in some branches of the family, that Thomas Leffingwell came to this country from Yorkshire, at fourteen years of age, but returned to England at twenty-one, and married there Mary White. When he emigrated a second time, he brought with him his youngest brother Stephen, fifteen years of age, leaving seven or eight other brothers in the old country. The author is unable to decide whether these traditions should be ranked as fable or fact.

Leppingwell.”\* The births of his children are also registered at Saybrook, but under the simple heading of “Children of Thomas Leffingwell,”—the name of the mother not being mentioned. The list is as follows:

“Rachell born 17 March 1648; Thomas 27 August 1649; Jonathan 6 Dec. 1650; Joseph 24 Dec. 1652; Mary 16 Dec. 1654; Nathaniel 11 Dec. 1656.”

It is probable also that Samuel Leffingwell, who married Anna Dickinson Nov. 16, 1687, and died in 1691, was the son of Thomas, though his birth is not found recorded.

Following Mr. Leffingwell to his new home in Norwich, we find him an active and influential member of the plantation. He was one of the first two deputies of the town to the General Court, in October, 1662; an officer of the first train-band and during Philip's war, lieutenant under Capt. Denison in his famous band of marauders, that swept so many times through Narragansett, and scoured the country to the sources of the Quinebaug.

He lived to old age, but the record of his death does not give his years, and no memorial stone marks his grave.

“Lieutenant Thomas Leffingwell died about 1710.

Mrs. Mary Leffingwell died Feb. 6, 1711.”

The staff of the venerated lieutenant, reputed to have been brought with him from his native place, and bearing his initials on its silver head, is now in the possession of one of his descendants, Rev. Thomas Leffingwell Shipman of Jewett City, Conn. This memorial staff is interesting on the score of antiquity, but far more so from its association with the venerable men of successive generations to whom it has been a staff of support. It calls up from the misty past the image of the old soldier, or the deacon, on the Sabbath day, slowly marching up to his seat under the pulpit; we see his white hair, and hear the steady sound of the staff brought down at every step.

Thomas Leffingwell, Jun. and Mary Bushnell were married in September, 1672, and might have celebrated their golden wedding in 1722, with a house-full of prosperous descendants gathered around them. The husband died March 5, 1723-4, leaving five daughters, all married to Bushnells and Tracys, and three sons, Thomas, John, and Benajah.

Mrs. Mary Leffingwell long survived her partner, as the epitaph on her grave-stone proves.

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\* Col. Rec., 1, 205. Leppingwell and Leppenwell often appear on the early Norwich records. It is suggestive of the supposed origin of the name,—Leaping-well, denoting a bubbling or boiling spring.



IN  
M E M O R Y  
of an aged nursing  
Mother of GOD'S New-  
english Israel, viz. Mrs.  
Mary Leffingwell, wife  
to Ensign Thomas Leffingwell Gent<sup>n</sup> who died  
Sept. ye 2<sup>d</sup> A. D.  
1745. Aged 91 years.

The inventory of Ensign Leffingwell in 1724 shows that he was richly furnished not only with the household comforts and conveniences of that era, but with articles of even luxury and elegance. He had furniture and linen in abundance, wooden ware, and utensils of iron, tin, pewter, and silver.\*

Wearing apparel valued at £27.

Wig, 20s. Walking-staff with silver head, 20s.

Rapier with silver hilt and belt, £6.

A French gun, £3. Silver watch, £5.

3 tankards, 2 dram-cups.

4 silver cups, one with two handles.

Copper pennies and Erabians,† £6.18.7.

Total valuation of estate, £9793.9.11.

It is doubtful whether, at that time, any other estate in the town equaled this in value.

The third Thomas Leffingwell, son of the Ensign and born in 1674, is distinguished as *Deacon* Thomas. He married Lydia, daughter of Solomon Tracy, and died July 18, 1733. He had six children.

His brothers, Capt. John and Benajah Leffingwell, had large families: the former, eight daughters and four sons; the latter, eight sons and four daughters. Capt. John Leffingwell married, first, Sarah Abell, and second, Mary Hart of Farmington.

The first wife is commemorated in the following epitaph:

Here lyes ye Body of  
that Worthy, Virtuous  
and most injeneous and  
jenteel Woman, Mrs  
Sara Leffingwell,  
who Dyed May ye  
9th, 1730. Aged  
39 years.

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\* In the inventory of Nathaniel Leffingwell at an earlier date, we find a castor hat, one coffee-cup, a beaker, a pair of campaign boots, &c.

† An *Arabian* is supposed to have been a small gold coin.

Benajah Leffingwell married Joanna Christophers of New London. Col. Christopher Leffingwell of the Revolutionary period was the third of his eight sons.

Thomas Leffingwell, 4th, (son of Deacon Thomas,) married Elizabeth, daughter of the Rev. Benjamin Lord, Jan. 23, 1729. He died in 1793, in the 90th year of his age.

Thomas Leffingwell, 5th, born in 1732, died in December, 1814, aged 82. These five generations were in direct succession, each the oldest son of the oldest son, but the lineage is here interrupted, as Thomas the 5th died unmarried.

The Leffingwell tree has a multitude of branches. Samuel Leffingwell, who married Hannah Gifford, March 2, 1714-15, was the progenitor of several large families. A district in the southern part of the township is known by the familiar designation of *Leffingwell-town*, from the predominance of the name in that neighborhood. In a field upon old Leffingwell land in this district there is a quiet village of the dead, where Leffingwells, Chapinans, Posts, and other names of the vicinity, are found. Here is the grave of Dea. Andrew Leffingwell, who died in 1803. He was the son of Samuel, and born Dec. 12, 1724.

Some of the Leffingwells, who lived on farms, have the traditionary renown of having been stalwart men, able horsemen, enterprising, robust, dread-nought kind of people. They would ride to Boston in a day, with a led horse for relief, and return on the morrow, unconscious of fatigue. One of them, it is said, performed the feat with a single horse, but the noble animal was sacrificed by the exploit, being found dead the next morning.\*

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## XXVI. OLMSTEAD, OR HOLMSTEAD.

Richard and John Olmstead were kinsmen and wards of James Olmstead, who came from England in 1632,\* and died at Hartford in September, 1640.†

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\* On one of these gallops to Boston, a spirited dog accompanied his master, but the next morning, when the family arose, he was at home, whining at the threshold for admittance. It was afterward ascertained that at night, in Boston, he had been accidentally shut out of his master's lodging, upon which he turned immediately upon the track and followed the trail home, traveling the whole distance between nine o'clock at night and six in the morning.

Such traditionary stories are usually exaggerative; but even then they have a degree of interest, and are worth collecting, as examples of growth by repetition, and the magnifying power of common report.

† Gen. Hist. Reg., 14, 301.

‡ Conn. Col. Rec., 1, 447.



John Olmstead married Elizabeth Marvin, and settled at Saybrook, where he was appointed leather-sealer in 1656. He is mentioned incidentally upon the Saybrook records in 1661, as "John Olmsted of Mohegan, shoemaker," which shows that he had removed to the new plantation. At this place, however, he appears as a doctor or surgeon, and was undoubtedly the first physician of the settlement, though the articles enumerated in his inventory would imply that he still continued his practice with the last and lap-stone. For several years he was on the grand jury of the county.

He possessed a considerable estate, and was very precise respecting the date and bounds of his grants. Though the H. is uniformly given to his name by the Norwich recorders, it was not used by himself. The blazed trees and mere-stones by which he indicated the corners and limits of his lots, were marked I. O.\*

He died Aug. 2, 1686; his age was about 60. No children are mentioned. He left most of his estate to his wife, who made over to his two nephews at Norwalk a large tract of land (stated at 2,000 acres) owned by him in the new plantation at Windham. Several slaves that he possessed were to receive their freedom at the death of his wife.

Mrs. Olmstead died in 1689. Her will, made in October of that year, was contested by the relatives of her husband, but confirmed by the General Court. She bequeathed £50 to the poor of Norwich, and £10 to Mr. Fitch; recognizing also by legacies Sergt. Richard Bushnell, "brother Adgate's four children," and the children of her husband's sister Newell, but left most of her real estate to her "friend and kinsman Samuel Lothrop," whom she appoints executor. This was the second Samuel Lothrop, whose wife was Hannah Adgate. The word *kinsman*, as used in ancient records, has a wide range of meaning. Deacon Adgate's second wife was the sister of Mrs. Olmstead, but Hannah, the wife of Samuel Lothrop, was the child of the first wife; and this is the only relationship that in this instance has been traced.

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## XXVII. PEASE.

The name of John Pease appears incidentally at New London in 1650, and it may be conjectured that he was a seaman, then belonging to Boston or Martha's Vineyard.† It is probable that he resided for a time at Saybrook before joining the company of Norwich proprietors, and that he took

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\* On County Court Records, when his inventory was exhibited, it was written Vmsteade.

† There was a seaman in Boston of this name in 1656. Gen. & Hist. Reg., 9, 142.

a family with him to the new settlement. His home-lot was at the western limit of the town-plot, and bore the date of Nov., 1659.

But in the course of a few years, his family, if he had one, his possessions and his character had all passed away. The Court Record for 1672 has the following item :

“John Pease complained of by the townsmen of Norwich for living alone, for idleness, and not duly attending the worship of God.

“This Court orders that said Townsmen do provide that Pease be entertained into some suitable family he paying for his board and accommodation, and that he employ himself in some lawful calling, which if he neglect or refuse to do, the townsmen may put him out to service in some approved family. Except he dispose of his accommodations and remove out of the town.”

Again, in 1682, we find that John Pease being in arrears for town and ministry rates, a levy was ordered on his estate.

It is not necessary to infer from these notices that Pease was wholly a worthless vagrant. He may have been a lonely, disappointed man,—a recluse, an anchorite, world-disgusted and unsocial,—or a secret dissenter, cherishing unpopular tenets, and choosing therefore to keep out of the way of his neighbors. Persons with any of these characteristics found but little sympathy in the plantations at that day. In Norwich they were particularly rigid in their requirements, not only of accepted inhabitants, or voters, but also of common town-dwellers. Men were not allowed to live alone, but obliged to connect themselves with some household, to have some specific employment, to assist in supporting the institutions of the town, and to appear in the house of worship on the Sabbath.

Nothing further is certainly known of John Pease. No settlement of estate is found ; he is not mentioned in any subsequent division of proprietary commons ; but allusions made in 1687 and later, seem to indicate that he was then living. A branch of the Yantic in the western part of the town, near the border of Lebanon, was called *Pease's brook*. At the mouth of Pease's brook was *Pease's farm* ; and here, about 1690, a corn-mill was established. It is not improbable that John Pease had retired to this tract of land, and originated these improvements. The spot, then so solitary, is now jubilant with machinery,—the seat of the manufacturing village of Bozrahville.

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#### Post.

Stephen Post, who died at Saybrook Aug. 16, 1659, is supposed to have been the father of John, Thomas, and Abraham Post, and it is a plausible conjecture that Ellener Post, [Helener in county court records,] who died at that place Nov. 13, 1670, was the relict of Stephen and mother of his children



John and Thomas Post removed to Norwich. Abraham remained in Saybrook, where he was known by the title of Lieutenant, and died in 1690.

### XXVIII. JOHN POST.

The marriage of John Post and Hester Hyde, "in the last of March, '52," and the births of four children, are found on record at Saybrook. Four other children are recorded at Norwich, and they had likewise a daughter Mary, not registered at either place, born probably in 1662,—comprising in all, a family of two sons and seven daughters.

Mrs. Hester Post died Nov. 13, 1703.

Mr. John Post died Nov. 27, 1710, aged 84 years.

The following inscription is still legible in the grave-yard at Norwich:

H E A R E  
L I E S   T H E   B O  
D Y   O F   M R   J O  
H N   P O S T   W H O  
D Y E D   N O V R  
2 7 .   1 7 1 0 .   A G E D  
8 4   Y E A R S .

Two of the daughters of John Post were united to inhabitants of New London: Sarah married Capt. John Hough; Lydia married, 1st, Abel Moore,—2d, Joseph Harris.

Two other daughters were married in Norwich: Margaret to Caleb Abel, and Mary to Nathaniel Rudd.

The sons were John and Samuel. John, born at Saybrook, April 12, 1657, married Sarah Reynolds, and died in 1690, leaving two young children, John and Sarah; but they died without issue, and no descendants in this line remain.

Samuel Post, born in Norwich, March 8, 1668, married Ruth Lothrop, and had two sons, Samuel and Nathaniel. Samuel Post, 2d, born Dec. 22, 1698, married Sarah Griswold of Guilford, and had an only son Samuel and several daughters. Samuel, 3d, born Feb. 12, 1736, was a goldsmith in New London, but after the Revolutionary war went south and has been no further traced.

Nathaniel Post, son of Samuel, 1st, born in 1702, died in November, 1799, almost a centenarian. His wife, Abigail Birchard, died in 1792,

in her 89th year. They had two sons, John and Jabez. The latter, born in 1730, inherited the family homestead, and planted the stupendous elm by which it is now overshadowed. He married, 1st, Martha, daughter of the Rev. Jedidiah Hyde, the Separatist minister, and had two sons, Jabez and Jedidiah, who, after the Revolution, settled at Newtown, N. J. By a second wife, Lucy, daughter of Richard Hyde, he had two other sons, Andrew and George Washington, who settled at Lebanon, N. H. He had also two daughters: 1st, Anne, who married Henry Blake, (publisher of a newspaper at Keene, N. H.,) and after his death, Thomas L. Thomas of Norwich; 2d, Lucretia, who married Eliphalet Carew, and died at the residence of her daughter, on a portion of the old Post home-lot, where she was born, July 6, 1858, aged 90.

Henrietta Blake, the only child of Henry and Anne Blake, married George D. Harris of Norwich. The late Hon. Thomas L. Harris, of Illinois, was their son. He was born at Norwich, Oct. 29, 1816; graduated at Trinity College, Hartford, 1841; studied law with Gov. Toucey, and settled in Illinois. In 1846 he enlisted in the Mexican war, and was noted for his gallantry at the taking of Vera Cruz and the battle of Cerro Gordo. He was elected member of Congress in 1848, and continued in office till his death, which took place at Springfield, Ill., Nov. 24, 1858. His life, though short, was marked by varied and exciting events.

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#### XXIX. THOMAS POST.

No reference to the family of this proprietor has been found at Saybrook. His existence seems not to be recognized any where but in Norwich. From the records of this place we learn that he married Mary Andrews in January, 1656, and that she died at Norwich in March, 1661, and was buried in a corner of her husband's home-lot, as heretofore related.

She left an infant daughter, Sarah, afterward the wife of Thomas Vincent. Mr. Post married, 2d, Rebecca Bruen, daughter of Obadiah Bruen of New London, Sept. 2, 1663. He died in 1701, leaving two sons, Obadiah and Joseph, and two daughters, Mary and Hannah. Obadiah died in 1703, without issue. The daughters died at the age of 70 and upward, unmarried. Joseph, born in 1681, married Mary Post of Saybrook, and died in 1749, leaving an only son, Joseph, and seven daughters. Thus, at the end of a century, the male line in this branch of the Post family again commenced with a unit.



## XXX. READ, (OR REED.)

The marriage of Josiah Read to Grace, the daughter of William Holloway, took place at Marshfield in November, 1666. At this time he had probably cleared his home-lot and prepared his domicile in Norwich. About the year 1687, he removed from the town-plot to a farm "over Showtucket," and was probably the first permanent settler upon that gore of land which was then called *the Crotch*, but afterward Newent. He had a brother John, at that time living "near Pease's farm," within the present limits of Bozrah.

It is probable that the brothers Josiah and John Read married sisters. The farm of William Holloway in Marshfield fell to his two daughters. It was sold, one half in 1670, by "Josiah Reed of Norridge, in the Colony of Connecticut," as the inheritance of his wife Grace, and the other half in 1673, by "Hannah Read, formerly Holloway," whom we suppose to have been the wife of John. The only proof, however, is the coincidence of name.

A third brother, Hezekiah Read, was considerably younger than the others. The father, whose Christian name has not been recovered, died in 1679, leaving Hezekiah a minor, who, in accordance with his own request, was committed by the court to the guardianship of his brothers, Josiah and John, "for his good education in the fear of God, good literature, and some particular calling."†

John and Hezekiah Read do not come again within the range of our history. It is probable that they removed from the town, as in the next generation we find only five of the name enrolled as householders, and these were Josiah and his four sons, Josiah, Jr., William, John, and Joseph,—all of them "farmers in ye Crotch of ye Rivers."

Josiah Read, the elder, died July 3, 1717.

Mrs. Grace Read, his wife, died May 9, 1727.

William Read died Aug. 13, 1727, leaving a wife, Mary, and an estate valued at £407.

## XXXI. REYNOLDS.

In the lists that have been collected of emigrants to the western world in the days of the great Exodus, beginning with the departure of the Pilgrims from Holland, the name of John Reynolds is several times found.

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\* Letter of Marcia Thomas of Marshfield.

† A Joseph Read appears at New London about as early as Josiah and John, who may have been the father of the family. The mother of Hezekiah Read in 1680 was Ruth Percy.

It appears in the shipments for St. Christopher's,\* for Virginia, and for New England.

One of the name was made freeman in Massachusetts, May 6, 1635, and was probably the same that settled at Weymouth,† where he was living with a family in 1660. One went from Watertown to Wethersfield, and there settled before 1640.‡ Another of the same cognomen established himself at Stonington, Ct., and was accepted as an inhabitant in 1667. John and Jonathan *Renalds* were landholders in East Greenwich, Ct., in 1672.§

John Reynolds, the proprietor of Norwich, was a distinct person from these, but perhaps a son of John of Wethersfield. He was a wheelwright by occupation, and removed from that part of Saybrook which is now Lyme. His housing and land were sold to Wolston Brockway, Dec. 3, 1659.

The births of his children are recorded at Norwich, but without mentioning the name of his wife. John, the oldest child, born in August, 1655, was killed by the Indians in Philip's war, as elsewhere related. Stephen, another son, died Dec. 19, 1687.

John Reynolds, the proprietor, died July 22, 1702. His will, dated seven days previous, shows that his family then consisted of wife Sarah, only son Joseph, and four married daughters, viz., Sarah Post, Mary Lothrop, Elizabeth Lymon, and Lydia Miller. He bequeathed his instruments of husbandry and wheelwright tools to his son, with all his housing and lands, subject only to the widow's dowry. His wife Sarah and son Joseph were named executors, and he adds, "I do make choice of my loving kinsman Ensign Thomas Leffingwell overseer to be helpful to them or either of them."

Joseph Reynolds, the son, was born in March, 1660, shortly before the removal of the family to Norwich. He married Sarah Edgerton in 1688, and through his four sons, John, Joseph, Stephen, and Daniel, the name has been perpetuated in Norwich.

John Reynolds of the third generation (son of Joseph) married Lydia Lord of Lyme, an admirable Christian woman who lived to the age of 92, and was more than forty years a widow. She died July 16, 1786. The tablet to her memory bears an inscription so suggestive in its simplicity, that it reveals the whole excellence of her character by giving a single trait:

"Here lies a Lover of Truth."

\* Embarked from Gravesend for St. Christopher's, April 3, 1635, in the Paul of London, John Reinolds, aged 23,—do. May 21, in the Matthew of London, Jo: Reinolds, aged 20.

Gen. Hist. Reg., 14, 349, 551.

† Ibid., 3, 71, 93.

‡ Ibid., 13, 301.

§ Ibid., 4, 62.



## XXXII. ROYCE.

Jonathan Royce was one of the five sons of Robert Royce of New London, and probably the oldest, though no record of his birth has been found. He married Deborah, daughter of Hugh Calkins, in June, 1660, according to the registry in Norwich, but at New London it is recorded March, 1660-61. Allowing the latest date to be correct, the bride was barely 17 years of age, her birth being recorded at Gloucester, Mass., March 18, 1643-4. This was a second hymeneal tie connecting the two families; John Calkins of Norwich having taken for his partner Sarah Royce, the sister of Jonathan.

The Royce family was also connected by a double link with that of Samuel Lothrop; Isaac Royce being united to Elizabeth Lothrop, and John Lothrop to Ruth Royce. These removed to Wallingford.

Jonathan Royce, the Norwich proprietor, died in 1689. Nine of his ten children were living at that time. John, the oldest son, married Sarah Perigo, Nov. 9, 1683, this being his 20th birth-day. He was an early settler in Windham.

After the second generation, the name of Royce disappeared from the roll of inhabitants in Norwich.

Robert Royce of Wallingford, at his death, in 1676, left a small gratuity to each of the churches of New London, Norwich, and Wallingford, as a memorial of his "great affection and good-will" for the ministry and churches with which he and his family had been connected.

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XXXIII. SMITH.

Nehemiah Smith was of Stratford, 1646, but removed to New Haven, and obtained a grant of land upon Oyster river for his accommodation in keeping sheep. He is occasionally called on the colonial records, "Shepherd Smith." In 1652 he transferred his residence to New London, where his brother John had previously settled, and from thence came to Norwich in 1660, or soon afterward. In 1663 he is styled, "now of New Norridge."

He appears to have had six or seven daughters, and one son; but only four of the daughters can be traced into other households. Mary became the wife of Samuel Raymond; Elizabeth, of Joshua Raymond; Ann, of Thomas Bradford; and another, (name uncertain,) of Joshua Abel.

At New Haven, the birth and baptism of six of the children may be found on record, his wife *Sarah* being a member of the church at that place. At Norwich, in his old age, he had a wife *Ann*.

From an entry in the records of the county court in 1666, we learn his age:

“Nehemiah Smith of Norwich declaring himself above 60 years of age and his brother John declaring the same at his earnest desire is freed from training.”

He died in 1686. His only son, Nehemiah, born in 1646 at New Haven, settled in Groton, where he was generally designated, from the office that he held, Mr. Justice Smith.

Edward Smith, a nephew of John and Nehemiah, married, June 7, 1663, Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Bliss of Norwich. He also settled in Groton, where he and his wife and his oldest son John, fifteen years of age, died on the 8th, 10th and 14th days of July, 1689, all victims of a fatal epidemic called the throat distemper. Another son, Obadiah, and seven daughters, were left orphans. Most of these found homes among their Norwich relatives. Obadiah Smith was chosen constable of the town in 1704, and it is the first time that the name of Smith, usually so prominent in our annals, is found attached to any office in Norwich. He was afterward captain of the train-band. The inscription upon his gravestone is interesting on account of its rude simplicity.

HERE LIES Ye BODY  
OF CAPT OBADIAH  
SMITH WHO DIED  
MAY 1 = 1727 = AND  
IN ye 50<sup>H</sup> YEAR OF  
HIS AGE.

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NOW BETWEEN  
THESE CARVED STONS  
RICH TRESVER LIES  
DEER SMITH HIS BONES.

#### XXXIV. THOMAS TRACY.

Thomas Tracy, from Tewksbury in Gloucestershire, came to New England in April, 1636. His name was enrolled at Salem, Feb. 23, 1637.

“Thomas Tracy, ship-carpenter, received an inhabitant, upon a certificate of divers of Watertown, and is to have five acres of land.”

He left the Bay for the new colony on the Connecticut, probably about 1640, and settled at Wethersfield, where he is supposed to have married



the widow of Edward Mason in 1641. A few years later he removed to Saybrook, from whence, after a residence of twelve or fourteen years, he came to Norwich, bringing with him six sons and a daughter. Perhaps his wife also was then living, for neither the place nor period of her death has been ascertained. Two of his children, John and Thomas, were probably born in Wethersfield, and the others in Saybrook. Miriam, the daughter, was the middle member of the list, and at the time of the settlement about ten years of age, her brothers ranging above and below, from six to (perhaps) sixteen years.

Mr. Tracy was evidently a man of talent and activity, skillful in the management of various kinds of business, upright and discreet. The confidence placed in him by his associates is manifested in the great number of appointments which he received. His name is on the roll of the Legislature as representative from Norwich at twenty-seven sessions. The elections were semi-annual, and Mr. Tracy was chosen twenty-one times, beginning Oct. 9, 1662, and ending July 5, 1684. The others were extra sessions.

In October, 1666, he was chosen ensign of the first train-band organized in Norwich, and in August, 1673, lieutenant of the New London County Dragoons, enlisted to fight against the Dutch and Indians. In 1678 he was appointed commissioner or justice of the peace.

The second wife of Thomas Tracy was Martha, relict of John Bradford, whom he married in 1676. In the course of a few years he was again a widower, and married in 1683, Mary, daughter of Nathaniel Foot, and relict, first of John Stoddard, and second of John Goodrich, both of Wethersfield. Mr. Tracy was her third husband, and she was his third wife.

Lieut. Thomas Tracy died Nov. 7, 1685. His estate was prized at £560; he had about 5000 acres of land. The court ordered distribution as follows: to John, the oldest son, £120; to the other sons, and to Sergt. Thomas Waterman, each £70. In this distribution no mention is made of a widow; and the inference is, that Mrs. Mary Tracy did not survive her husband.

Late researches into the history of this family furnish evidence that Thomas Tracy was of honorable descent, and that his immediate ancestors for three generations had been distinguished for fidelity to the reformed religion. Richard Tracy, of Stanway, England, published a work deeply imbued with the spirit of Protestantism, on account of which he suffered much from persecution in the days of Queen Mary, though he escaped martyrdom. It is supposed that one of his sons, Nathaniel, living at Tewksbury, was the father of Thomas, and that the latter was born at that place in 1610.\*

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\* This is the result of an examination of the records of Gloucestershire, England, by the late F. P. Tracy of San Francisco, Cal. The evidence was such as to satisfy him

No registration of the family of Thomas Tracy has been found. From the early appearance of his name at Salem, it is evident that his children were all born on this side of the ocean. In the settlement of his estate, the order in which they are mentioned, corresponding with other incidental testimony, gives the following series as their natural position :

1. John, born not earlier than 1642, nor later than 1644.
2. Thomas, (probably) 1646.
3. Jonathan, 1648. His age in 1698 was stated at 50.
4. Miriam, 1649 or 1650. She married Thomas Waterman in November, 1668.
5. Solomon, 1651. Aged 46 in 1697, and when he died, July 9, 1732, was in his 82d year.
6. Daniel, 1652; died June 29, 1728, aged 76.
7. Samuel; died Jan. 11, 1693, without issue,—his effects being assigned to his brothers and sisters.

John Tracy so soon took his place among the inhabitants of Norwich, that he acquired the rank, influence, and all the privileges of a first purchaser, and as such is numbered as one of the Thirty-five.

Thomas and Jonathan Tracy, second and third sons of Lieut. Thomas, settled upon the wild, unreclaimed lands on the east side of the Shetucket, then belonging to Norwich, but afterward included in Preston. Jonathan married, July 11, 1672, Mary, daughter of Francis Griswold. The wife of Thomas Tracy has not been traced. The brothers had each a large blessing of children, that were soon disseminated in the neighborhood, founding homes of their own, and assisting in the great work of clearing away forests and planting homes in the wilderness.

The will of Thomas Tracy was executed April 6, 1721, but not proved till 1724. He probably died early in that year.

His youngest son, Dea. Jedidiah Tracy of Preston, died June 8, 1779, in the 87th year of his age, his death being caused by a fall from his horse as he was riding to the mill. He had been deacon of the church for nearly fifty years, and was also a justice of the peace and representative of the town. He left, says a newspaper of the day, one hundred and thirty-seven descendants.

Jonathan Tracy was the first town clerk of Preston, the first lieutenant, and the first justice of the peace. In an old grave-yard devoted to the Tracys, Forbes, and other early inhabitants of Preston, is a rough head-

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that Lieut. Thomas Tracy of Norwich was the son of Nathaniel of Tewksbury, who was the son of Richard, Esq., of Stanway, who was the son of Sir William, the ninth, of Toddington.

Mr. Tracy had collected materials for a thorough historical registry of the descendants of the Lieutenant; but he died while on a political tour in western New York, Oct. 10, 1860, and the work for which he had made such ample preparation has not been published.



stone, carved with the letters J. T. and the date 1711, which is supposed to point out his grave. The inventory of his estate was taken Feb. 12, 1712.

Solomon Tracy was a physician, and the second in Norwich of whom we find any notice,—John Olmstead being the first. He was united in marriage, Nov. 23, 1676, to Sarah, daughter of Simon Huntington. She died in 1683, and he married Sarah, daughter of Thomas Bliss and relict of Thomas Sluman.

INSCRIPTION UPON THE GRAVE-STONE OF DR. SOLOMON TRACY.

IN THIS SPOT OF  
EARTH IS INTERRED  
Ye EARTHY PART OF MR  
SOLOMON TRACY  
WHO DIED IVLY Ye 9<sup>H</sup>  
1732. & IN YE 82<sup>D</sup>  
YEAR OF HIS AGE.

---

THE DEAD IN SILENT  
LANGUAGE SAY  
TO LIVING THINKING  
READER HEARE  
O LOVING FRINDS  
DOE NOT DELAY  
BUT SPEEDILY FOR  
DETH PREPARE.

Lydia, only daughter of Solomon Tracy, married the third Thomas Leffingwell. Simon Tracy, son of Solomon, married Mary Leffingwell. This last couple were united in 1708, and journeyed together far into the vale of years. A head-stone in the burial-ground informs us that "the pious, beloved, and very aged Mr. Simon Tracy, died 14th September, 1775, in the 96th year of his age." His wife died in her 89th year.

Solomon Tracy, second and youngest son of Solomon, removed to Canterbury.

Daniel, the fifth son of Lieut. Thomas Tracy, inherited the paternal homestead in the town-plot. He was twice married; first, to Abigail Adgate, and second, to Hannah, relict of Thomas Bingham. After a long, honorable and useful life, he came to an untimely end, being instantaneously killed by falling from the frame-work of a bridge that had just been suspended over Shetucket river.

The late Dr. Ebenezer Tracy of Middletown, the Tracys of Scotland parish, (Windham,) and Major Thomas Tracy of Norwich, long of the firm of Avery & Tracy, who died in 1806, were descendants of Daniel Tracy.

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### XXXV. JOHN TRACY.

The marriage of this young proprietor to Mary Winslow, June 10, 1670, is recorded at Duxbury, Mass. The bride was a daughter of Josiah Winslow the elder,\* who was brother to Governor Edward Winslow of Plymouth.

John and Mary Tracy had five children,—four sons and one daughter; the latter married Nathaniel Backus. The oldest son, Josiah, died in infancy. The others, John, Joseph, and Winslow, all had families.

Mr. John Tracy died Aug. 16, 1702.

Mrs. Mary Tracy died July 30, 1721.

Mr. Tracy's inventory specifies the homestead, valued at £130, and seventeen other parcels of land, comprising between three and four thousand acres. He had land at Yantick, at Bradford's brook, Beaver brook, Lebanon, Little Lebanon, Wawecos hill, Potapaug, at Wenungatuck, (on the west side of the Quinebaug, above Plainfield,) at Tadmuck hill, (east of the Quinebaug,) and at Mashamagwatuck, in the Nipmuck country. The land at Wenungatuck was part of a large tract purchased of Owaneco, sachem of Mohegan. In the division of the estate it fell to Nathaniel Backus.

John Tracy of the second generation was born in 1673; of the third, in 1702; of the fourth, in 1726; of the fifth, in 1755; of the sixth, in 1783. These six John Tracys were in the line of primogeniture, and all natives of Norwich except the first. Their partners in regular succession were Mary Winslow, Elizabeth Leffingwell, Margaret Hyde, Margaret Huntington, Esther Pride, and Susannah Hyde. The sixth in this line was the late John Tracy of Oxford, New York, who was born in that part of Norwich which is now Franklin, and was a man of acknowledged ability and integrity, devoting himself for many years to the service of the public as post-master, representative, judge, and for six years Lieutenant-Governor of New York. He died June 18, 1864. He leaves no son to continue the line.

Dr. Elisha Tracy, a distinguished physician of Norwich of the Revolutionary era, was a son of Capt. Joseph Tracy, second son of John the proprietor. He was the father of the late Dr. Philemon Tracy, two of

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\* It has been claimed that she was a daughter of John Winslow and his wife, Mary Chilton of the Mayflower; but this is a mistake.



whose sons, Phineas L. and Albert H., have been representatives in Congress from New York. Capts. Jared and Frederick Tracy, in the mercantile line, who have descendants in various parts of the Union, from New York to Missouri, were of the same lineage.

Uriah Tracy of Litchfield, born at Norwich, West Farms, in 1755, and U. S. Senator from 1796 till his death, was a descendant of Winslow Tracy, the youngest son of the first John. He died at Washington, July 19, 1807, and was the first person interred in the Congressional Cemetery.

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### XXXVI. WADE.

The name of Robert Wade is found at Dorchester in 1635; a person bearing the same name was admitted as a freeman at Hartford in 1640; at a later period it is found among the inhabitants of Saybrook, and still later at Norwich. All these notices probably refer to one person.

In August, 1657, Robert Wade was divorced from his wife by the General Court at Hartford; the act being recorded in the following terms:

“This Court duely and seriously considering what evidence hath bene prsented to them by Robert Wade of Seabrooke in reference to his wiues vnworthy, sinfull, yea, unnaturall cariage towards him the said Robert, her husband, notwithstanding his constant and comendable care and indeauor to gaine fellowship w<sup>th</sup> her in the bond of marriage and that either where shee is in England, or for her to liue w<sup>th</sup> him here in New England; all w<sup>ch</sup> being slighted and rejected by her, disowning him and fellowship w<sup>th</sup> him in that solemne couenant of marriage betwene them and all this for neare fifteene yeares: They doe hereby declare that Robert Wade is from this time free from Joane Wade his late wife and that former Couenant of marriage betwene them.”\*

We assume that this was the Robert Wade that appeared a few years later among the proprietors of Norwich, with wife *Susanna*.

His house-lot, between those of John and Thomas Post, was subsequently transferred to Caleb Abell in exchange for a situation better adapted to farming.

The inventory of Robert Wade was exhibited at the county court in June, 1682. He left a widow, son Robert, and three daughters, Susannah, Mary, and Elizabeth.

Robert Wade the younger married in 1691, Abigail Royce, and is found shortly afterward among the planters at “*the Ponds*,” by which name a portion of Windham was originally known. He was made a freeman May 30, 1693.

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\* Conn. Col. Rec., 1, 301.

## XXXVII. RICHARD WALLIS.

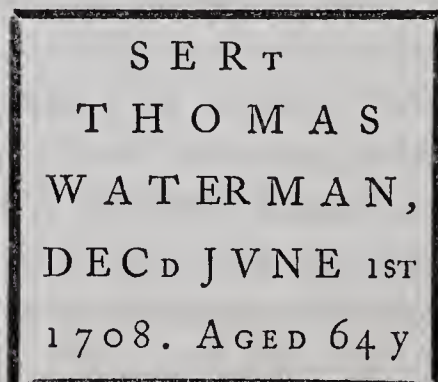
This name is probably identical with *Wallace*. Richard Wallis, though ranked as an original proprietor, was not one of the earliest company that settled at Norwich. He was living at that time in the eastern division of Saybrook, now Lyme, and sold his house with six acres of land to John Borden, but yet delayed from year to year to vacate the premises. In 1670, Borden brought a suit against him before the county court, in order to obtain possession. The court ordered Wallis to deliver the premises to the purchaser, in good condition, within one month from the date of judgment. We assume, therefore, the year 1670 as the date of his removal to Norwich.

He died early in 1675, leaving a widow and two daughters, Abigail and Joanna. In the settlement of estate, the court gave the lands in Norwich to Abigail, and those in Lyme to Joanna. Simon Huntington and John Birchard were appointed overseers of the children and estate. The widow married the next year, Jacob Wackley.

## XXXVIII. WATERMAN.

Thomas Waterman was nephew to the wife of John Bradford. Robert Waterman and Elizabeth Bourn of Marshfield were married Dec. 9, 1638. Thomas, their second son, was born in 1644, and probably came to Norwich with his uncle Bradford. In November, 1668, he was joined in wedlock with Miriam, only daughter of Thomas Tracy. The Waterman house-lot was next to that of Major Mason, and the dwelling-house was built at a slight turn of the town street, opposite the residence of the late Dr. Turner. It projected awkwardly into the highway, which now passes over a part of the site. The old well that stood by the house, is under the street.

A granite stone records in rude capitals the decease of this proprietor.





The inventory of Thomas Waterman amounted to £855.11.4. He had ten oxen, ten cows, and abundant household goods, showing a condition of thrift, comfort, and independence. He left three sons and five daughters.

Elizabeth, the oldest daughter, married John Fitch, one of the sons of the reverend minister of the town, and settled in Windham.

Martha, the second daughter, went to Lyme, as the second wife of "Lyme's Captain, Reinold Marvin."

Miriam died unmarried, Sept. 22, 1760, aged 82.

Lydia married Eleazer Burnham, a new inhabitant of the Nine-miles-square, that came in from Ipswich after 1700.

Ann, the youngest daughter, became the partner of Josiah DeWolfe of Lyme.

The sons of the proprietor were Thomas and John.

Thomas, the first-born of Norwich Watermans, not waiting to be quite twenty-one years of age, married, June 29, 1691, Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Allyn. Their union was prolonged to a term of sixty-four years, and the memorial stones at their graves show that they had both attained their 86th year, and died within a few months of each other in the year 1755. They had seven sons and two daughters.

Lieut. Elisha Waterman, their fifth son, died in Havana, a victim of the fatal expedition undertaken against the Spanish in 1762. He left a large family.

Asa Waterman, the sixth son, was the father of Arunah Waterman, who was born at Norwich in 1749, and after taking an active part in the various scenes of the Revolutionary war, both as a soldier and assistant commissary, emigrated with his family, about the year 1800, to Johnson, Vt., assisting greatly in the growth and prosperity of that town. At Johnson, Capt. Waterman lived to old age, adhering to ancient principles, simple manners, and old customs, grandfather to the whole village, and wearing to the last the long waistcoat, small clothes and shoe-buckles of a former generation. He died in 1838.

Nehemiah Waterman, seventh son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Allyn,) was the first of the Bozrah line of Watermans. He died Oct. 27, 1796, in the 88th year of his age. His son Nehemiah was an officer of the Revolutionary army, and the representative of Bozrah for ten sessions, from 1787 to 1797. He died in 1802, aged 66.

Rev. Elijah Waterman, distinguished as a successful teacher of the classics, and an able and fearless preacher, was a son of the second Nehemiah Waterman, and born in Bozrah, Nov. 28, 1769. He graduated at Yale College in 1791, and was ten years pastor of the church at Windham. He was afterward engaged in the ministry at Bridgeport, where he died Oct. 11, 1825, aged 56. He was a man of large information and an able writer. It is said that he had read the *Paradise Lost* several times

through before he was nine years of age. He published sermons and treatises; was fond of poetry, and often composed small poems on fugitive occasions.\*

John Waterman, the second son of the proprietor Thomas, born in March, 1672, married in 1701, Elizabeth, daughter of the second Samuel Lothrop. They had a family of six or seven sons and two daughters, the youngest of whom, Hannah, was the mother of Benedict Arnold.

A branch of the Waterman family settled in Lebanon, N. H. Col. Thomas Waterman, born July 11, 1766, is said to have been the first white child born in that town. His parents, Silas and Silence Waterman, were from Norwich.

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\* Sprague's Pulpit Annals, Vol. 2.



## CHAPTER XII.

### SECOND CLASS OF PROPRIETORS; RECKONED AMONG FIRST-COMERS.

It is worthy of notice that for the first eighty years after the settlement, very few names occur among the town officers but those of the earliest class of settlers and their descendants. It shows how closely within their own charmed circle the proprietors kept the powers of government. The Abells, Brewsters, Bushnells, Elderkins and Lothropes were included in the circle, but beyond these the exceptions were rare. Thomas Sluman, one of the constables for 1680; Stephen Merrick 1681, and a townsman 1685; Caleb Forbes, constable east of Shetucket, 1684, and Thomas Parke, Jr., 1685; John Elderkin, constable 1694; and after 1709, David Hartshorn and Nathaniel Rudd occasionally appointed townsmen for the West-farmers, are all the names that are registered for any important and useful office, outside of the original proprietary list, until the year 1721. In the choice of deputies the range was restricted to the same circle, without any exception, till Jabez Perkins appears on the roll in 1720. After this period the old dynasty began to loosen its bolts, and the admixture of new names is more frequent.

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#### I. ABEL, OR ABELL.

Three of this name are found at an early period among the inhabitants of Norwich: Caleb, Benjamin, and Joshua. It is a natural supposition that they were brothers, and nothing is known that disproves the relationship. In all probability they came from Dedham.

1. Caleb Abell married in July, 1669, Margaret, daughter of John Post. They had eleven children. The wife died in 1700, and Mr. Abell married Mary, relict of Stephen Loomer.

He was chosen constable in 1684; townsman in 1689, and often afterwards; appointed to keep tavern in 1694; enrolled among the dignitaries with his military title, "Sargent Calib Abel," in 1702; died Aug. 7, 1731, leaving wife Mary, and nine children.

Enough of the broken head-stone of his grave remains to show that he was in the 85th year of his age.

Of the six sons of Caleb and Margaret Abell, the first three on the list, Samuel, Caleb and John, married sisters, Elizabeth, Abigail and Rebecca Sluman, daughters of Thomas Sluman and Mary Bliss.

Samuel, the oldest son, born in 1672, was a physician. In 1708, and again in a list of land-owners in 1726, he appears with the prefix of his profession. We assign him to the third place in the list of Norwich physicians whose names have been recovered. Though cotemporary with Dr. Caleb Bushnell, he was a few years senior in age.

Theophilus, the fourth son, died on the last day of August, 1724, aged 44. This was before his father's decease. He left a wife and two daughters. His library seems to intimate that he was a religious teacher. It consisted of about thirty volumes, and among them were the following:

A Bible with silver clasps.

Wise's Church Quarrels.

Doolittle on the Lord's Supper.

Henry's Communicant's Companion.

Robert Russell's Seven Sermons.

Dr. Mather on Angels; do. on Resignation to the Will of God.

Memorial on Milk for Babes.

Cotton Mather's Day of Rain.

Stoddard on Saving Conversion.

Dr. Mather's Now or Never.

Bunyan's Forsaken Sinner.

Do. Solomon's Temple Spiritualized.

Wadsworth's Guide to the Doubting.

Dr. Mather's Ecclesiastical Councils.

Pierpont's False Hope. Henry Gearing.

Burrough's Preparation for Judgment.

Stoddard's Guide to Christ.

Flavel's Husbandry Spiritualized.

Sundry old books.

No single book, except the Bible, was valued over 2s. 6d.

2. Benjamin Abell was in the settlement as early as 1670. His inventory was presented to the Prerogative Court in June, 1699, and the statement made that he left a son, Benjamin, and six daughters.

3. Joshua Abell married, Nov. 1, 1677, Mehitable, daughter of Nehemiah Smith. He was constable in 1682, and was frequently chosen townsman. He died March 17, 1724, in the 77th year of his age. His estate was distributed the same year to four daughters, £915 to each.



They were the wives of John Lothrop, John Leffingwell, Hugh Calkins, and Thomas Lothrop. Two other daughters, the wives of Nathaniel Fitch and Obadiah Smith, had received their portions. No son is mentioned.

It will not be inappropriate to advert here to a late worthy descendant of Caleb Abell of Norwich, who has left no posterity to perpetuate his line. General Elijah Abell, a gallant officer in the army that contended against England for liberty and independence, was born within the old municipal bounds of Norwich, but after the conclusion of the war settled in Fairfield, and for nearly twenty years served as sheriff of the county. In later life he returned to the old homestead in Bozrah, and there died, June 3, 1809, aged 71. He was a graduate of Yale College, well-informed, energetic, and upright.

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## II. BREWSTER.

Jonathan Brewster was the oldest son of Elder William Brewster of the Mayflower Colony, but came over in the *Fortune*, 1621, a year later than his father. He settled at Duxbury, and represented that town in 1639. With others of the Plymouth Colony, he engaged actively in the trade with the Indians of Long Island Sound and Connecticut River. This trade was carried on in sloops and shallops. Some of the first settlers of Windsor appear to have been carried thither in Brewster's vessel. Jonathan and William Brewster were witnesses to a deed of land purchased by the Dorchester people of the Indians at Windsor, April 15, 1636.\*

These voyages brought Mr. Brewster into contact with the younger Winthrop, the founder of New London; to which place he removed in 1649, and found immediate employment, not only in the old path of Indian traffic, but as Recorder or Clerk of the plantation,—many of the early deeds and grants at New London being in his hand-writing.

16 May, 1650. "This day were made Freemen of this jurisdiction, John Winthrop Esq. Mr. Jonathan Brewster," &c.

Nine or ten years before the settlement of Norwich, Mr. Brewster had established a trading-post near the mouth of Poquetannock creek. The point of land formed by the junction of the creek and river is still called Brewster's Neck. A large tract of land was here given by Uncas to Mr. Brewster, as a bonus to induce him to establish the post, and it was confirmed to him by the townsmen of New London, within whose original bounds it was included.†

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\* Stiles' Windsor, 1, 111.

† Conn. Col. Rec., 1, 207.

He commenced operations at Brewster's Neck in 1650, without waiting to obtain a license from the authorities of Connecticut, who claimed the jurisdiction. The General Court, at their session in May of that year, censured him for the way of proceeding, but legalized the undertaking itself.

"Whereas Mr. Jonathan Brewster hath set up a trading-house at Mohigen, this Courte declares that they cannott but judge the thinge very disorderly, nevertheless considering his condition, they are content hee should proceed therein for the present, and till they see cause to the contrary."\*

From this time forth, Brewster's Neck and Trading Cove on the opposite side of the river became the principal places of traffic with the Mohegans. Mr. Brewster maintained an agency here and kept his family at the post for several years, but at length relinquished the trade to his son Benjamin, and returned to Pequot Harbor, as New London was then called. In May, 1657, he was chosen "Assistant for the towne of Pequett."†

(Autograph in 1659.)

*Johnna: Brewster.*

His four daughters were all eligibly married in New London, and there he and his wife spent their last days. He died in 1661. Incidental circumstances determine the year, but the precise date has not been ascertained. The MS. diary of Thomas Minor of Stonington mentions the burial of Mrs. Brewster, March 5, 1678, (N. S. 1679.)

This worthy and honorable couple, Jonathan and Lucretia Brewster, belong to the venerated class of First-Comers of New England.

Mr. Brewster brought with him to New London his son Benjamin and four daughters, leaving William, and possibly other children, in the Old Colony. Benjamin Brewster married Anna Dart in February, 1659, and succeeded his father at Brewster's Neck, where, after a life of usefulness and honor, he died Sept. 10, 1710, aged 77. The births of his seven children are recorded at Norwich.

New London, as the bounds were stated in 1652, extended a quarter of a mile above Mr. Brewster's trading-house. In 1668, the line between New London and Norwich was reviewed and rectified, and it was still found to cross Brewster's Neck, dividing the Brewster farm between the

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\* Conn. Col. Rec., 1, 209. The phrase, "considering his condition," refers to the losses he had sustained in the Old Colony.

† Ibid., 1, 298.



two towns. The Legislature therefore left it to the option of Mr. Benjamin Brewster to which place he would be attached. The settlement at one place was four miles north of him, and at the other eight miles south. He chose the nearer neighborhood. Accordingly in 1669 we find him recorded as one of the twenty-five freemen of Norwich, and in 1685 he was one of its twelve patentees; but a year later, when Preston was accepted as a plantation, his farm fell within the limits of that new town, and he was enrolled as one of its inhabitants.

Thus it appears that Brewster's Neck, which, as we have seen, was at first an advanced post into the wilderness, where the first house was erected by white men in the Mohegan or Pequot territory, north of New London, was long afloat in regard to its territorial possession, and settled with difficulty into a permanent position. Originally included in the territory conquered from the Pequots, yet claimed and given away by Uncas, accredited for about twenty years to New London, and then assigned by courtesy to Norwich,—afterward made a part of the town of Preston, but subsequently included in North Groton,—it is now undeniably, and has been since 1836, within the limits of Ledyard. It is seldom that the formation of new towns and the alteration of boundaries produces so many changes in a particular locality.

The late Mr. Seabury Brewster of Norwich was not a descendant of Jonathan Brewster, but of some other branch of the Mayflower family. He emigrated to Norwich from the Old Colony during the Revolutionary war, when about twenty-two years of age. The following is the inscription upon his tomb-stone:

“Seabury Brewster was born at Kingston, Plymouth Co., Mass., 19 Oct., 1754, and died at Norwich, Conn., 27 July, 1847, aged 93. He was 6th in descent from Elder William Brewster, one of the Pilgrims that came over in the Mayflower and landed at Plymouth in 1620.

“This stone is erected by his three sons, William, Christopher, and Seabury.”

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### III. BUSHNELL.

The marriage of Richard Bushnell and Mary Marvin, Oct. 11, 1648, is recorded at Hartford. Mary Marvin was a daughter of Matthew Marvin, afterward of Norwalk. Richard Bushnell's name also appears in 1656, among the owners of home-lots in Norwalk, but he is not afterward found in the list of early settlers, and it is supposed that he became a resident of Saybrook, and there died about the year 1658. His relict appears in 1660, at Norwich, as the wife of Thomas Adgate. Her children were brought with her to the new settlement, and their births are found registered with those of the Adgate family.

“The names and ages of the children of Richard Bushnell deceased, who stand in relation unto the second wife of Thomas Adgate as their mother, are as followeth:

Joseph Bushnell was borne in May, Anno Dom 1651.

Richard “ “ “ “ Sept. “ “ 1652.

Mary “ “ “ “ Jan’y “ “ 1654.

Marcie “ “ “ “ March “ “ 1657.

Mary Bushnell, the only daughter of this group that appears to have lived to maturity, married in September, 1672, Thomas Leffingwell, Jr. Joseph, the oldest son, married Mary Leffingwell of the same family, Nov. 28, 1673. This couple had a family of eleven children—seven daughters and four sons; but only two of the latter, Jonathan and Nathan, became heads of families.

Mr. Joseph Bushnell lived to his 96th year, and his wife to her 92d. The life of their daughter, Mrs. Mary Leffingwell, was also extended beyond the age of 90.

Richard Bushnell married in 1672, Elizabeth Adgate, the daughter of his step-father by his first wife. He had two sons, Caleb and Benajah, and two daughters, Anne and Elizabeth, who married the brothers William and John Hyde, sons of Samuel the proprietor.

In the earlier part of the eighteenth century, Richard Bushnell was one of the most noted and active men in Norwich. After arriving at man’s estate, we find him taking a prominent part in almost every enterprise that was set on foot in the place.

He performed successively, if not contemporaneously, the duties of townsman, constable, school-master, poet, deacon, sergeant, lieutenant and captain, town-agent, town-deputy, court-clerk, and justice of the peace.

As a military man, it is probable that he had seen some actual service in scouting against the Indians, and was useful in exercising the train-bands. The first Mondays of May and September were days of general militia muster, or training-days, as they were usually called. These in Norwich, as elsewhere, were always days of festivity. No one was so poor as not to regale his family with training-cake and beer at those times. In 1708 a new start was taken in improving the appearance and exercise of the trainers. “Drums, *holbarts*, and a pair of colours,” were purchased for them.

As a clerk, Mr. Bushnell exhibited an improvement upon the old forms of writing and spelling; and as a justice, he decided numerous cases of debt and trespass, both for Norwich and the neighboring towns.

Caleb Bushnell, the son of Richard, born May 26, 1679, was nearly as conspicuous in the affairs of the town as his father. He was a physician, captain of the train-band, often employed in civil affairs, and a prosperous trader. He was also one of the first occupants and improvers at the Landing, no one of his compeers going before him in activity and enterprise.



He left an estate of about £4000. The stone record gives his age and death :

“Here lyeth what was mortal of that worthy gentleman, Capt. Caleb Bushnell, son to Capt. Richard Bushnell Esq. who died Feb. 18, 1724, aged 46 years, 8 months and 23 days.”

Richard Bushnell's will was written after the death of his son Caleb. In that instrument he states it to have always been his intention not to bequeath a double portion to his oldest son, (as was the custom of the country,) but to give his children equal portions of his property. To his son Benajah he leaves those relics or heir-looms which would probably have fallen to Caleb, had he survived, viz., his double-barreled gun, silver-hilted sword and belts, ivory-headed cane, and silver whistle.

HERE LIES y e B O D Y  
O F C A P T. R I C H A R D  
B V S H N E L L E S Q V I R E  
W H O D I E D A V G V S T  
y e 27 . . 1727 . . & i n y e  
75<sup>TH</sup> Y E A R O F H I S A G E.

A S Y O U A R E  
S O W A S W E  
B U T A S W E A R E  
Y O U S H A L L B E.

#### IV. ELDERKIN.

Our acquaintance with John Elderkin begins at Lynn, in 1637, when he was about 21 years of age. From thence he may be traced to Boston, Dedham, Reading, Providence, New London, and at last to Norwich, which was probably his latest home and final resting-place.

In a deposition taken in 1672, he gives his age, 56, and says that he became an inhabitant of New London the same year that Mr. Blinman and his company came there to dwell. We find a grant of house-lot recorded to him at that place in October, 1650, in anticipation of his coming.

Elderkin was a house-carpenter and mill-wright,—crafts which in the circumstances of the country were better than a patent of nobility in gaining for him a welcome reception, esteem and influence. In the places

where he sojourned, he built mills, meeting-houses, probably also bridges, and the better sort of dwelling-houses. At New London he built the first meeting-house, constructed two or three saw-mills in the neighborhood, and occasionally tried his hand in building vessels.

The settlement of Norwich opened a new field for his services. The proprietors at their first coming entered into a contract with him to erect a mill upon the Yantic for grinding corn, with the privilege of running the mill for a term of years as a kind of monopoly of the business. This led to a change of residence, and in 1664 he uses the style, "I John Elderkin of Norwige, carpenter."

In building the first meeting-house on the Plain, Elderkin does not appear to have had any concern. In constructing that temporary edifice the planters themselves were probably the architects and workmen. In 1673, Elderkin was engaged to build a more imposing and durable structure for a house of worship, in conjunction with Samuel Lothrop, by whom a certain part of the work was to be performed. This edifice was scarcely completed, when he entered into a similar contract with the people of New London. He seems in point of fact to have been occupied in running a mill and building a meeting-house at each place, nearly at the same time.

He died June 23, 1687, aged about 71. Of his first wife nothing is known. The birth of a daughter, Abigail, is recorded at Boston, Sept. 13, 1641. Richard Hendy's wife was Hannah, daughter of John Elderkin, and it is probable that Daniel Comstock's wife, Paltiah, was another of the family, as he and Elderkin use the terms father and son in their transactions with each other as early as 1661.

Elderkin married, in 1660 or before, Elizabeth, relict of William Gaylord of Windsor.\* Three sons and two daughters were the issue of this second marriage.

(Fac-simile of his Signature in 1653.)

*John Elderkin.*

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\* In an account of Daniel Lane of New London against Elderkin in 1660, there is a charge of "4 yds. of lase for his mother, 6d. per yd." This must have been his wife's mother.



## V. LATHROP.

Samuel Lathrop, or Lothrop, as the name was then generally spelled, (with the pronunciation *Lotrop*,) was a son of the Rev. John Lothrop, who had preached in London to the first Independent or Congregational Church organized in England, as successor to Mr. Jacob, under whose ministry the church was formed. The congregation was broken up by ecclesiastical rigor, and Mr. Lothrop suffered an imprisonment of two years duration, from which he was released only on condition of his leaving the country. He came to America in 1634, and was the first minister both of Scituate and of Barnstable.

Samuel was his second son, and probably about fourteen years of age when the family emigrated. His marriage is recorded at Barnstable, in his father's hand-writing: "My sonn Samuel and Elizabeth Scudder married att my house, Nov. 28, 1644."

Samuel Lothrop was a house-carpenter, and found occupation for a time in Boston, from whence he went to New London, then called Pequot, in the summer of 1648.\* Just twenty years later he removed to Norwich, where, after a residence of more than forty years, he died, Feb. 29, 1700.

(Autograph.)

*Samuell Lotthrop.*

His nuncupative will, made five days before his decease, was witnessed by Rev. John Woodward and Dea. Simon Huntington, and proved in the Prerogative Court the succeeding April. He had nine children. John, the oldest, was probably born in the Bay State; the others in New London. They were all by his first wife, of whose death there is no record.

His second wife, whom he married at Plymouth in 1690, was Abigail, daughter of John Doane.† She survived him, and lived to the great age of 103 years. On her hundredth birth-day a large audience assembled at her house, and a sermon was preached by the pastor of the church. At this time she retained in a great degree the intelligence and vivacity of her earlier years.

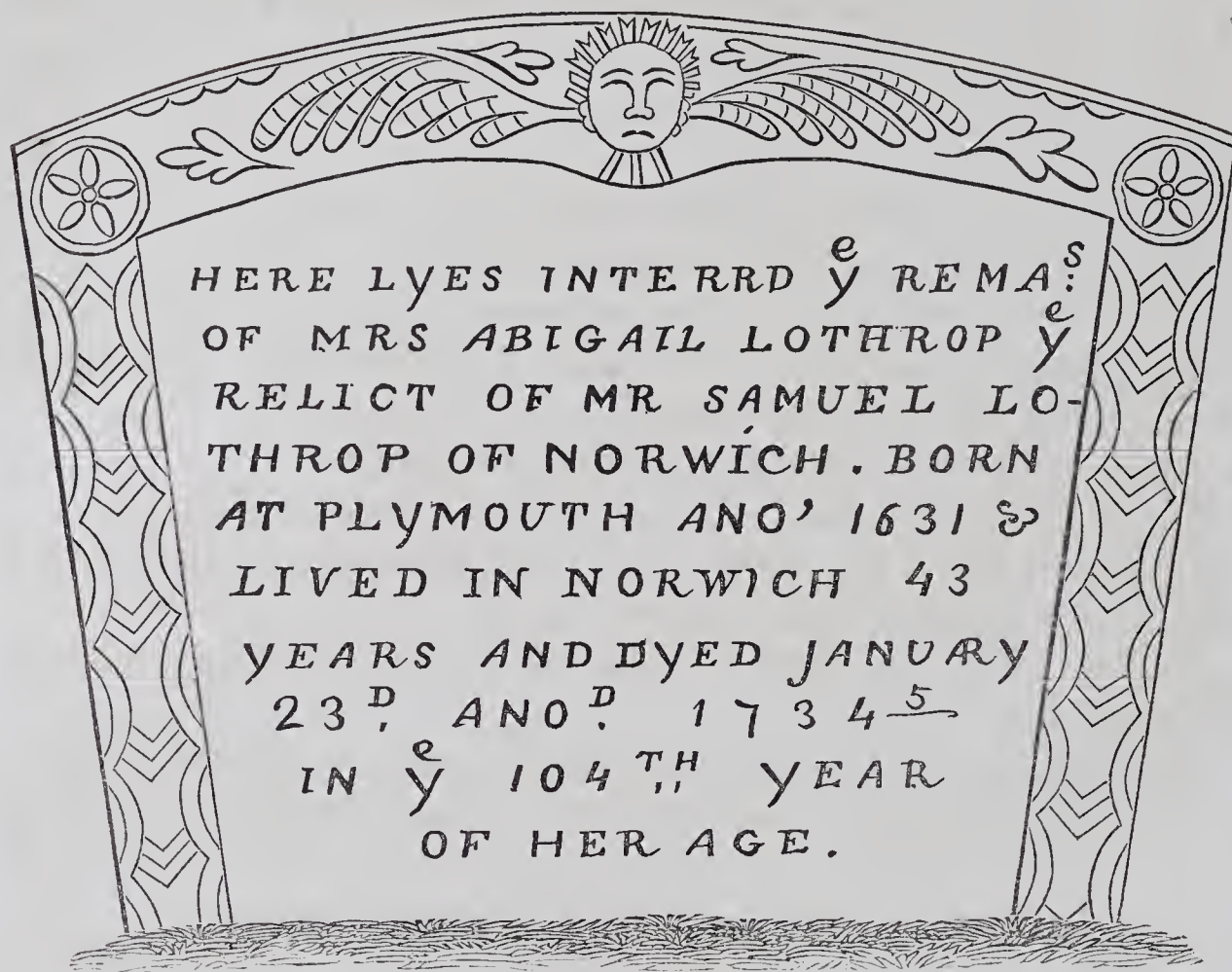
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\* The following passage occurs in a letter from the elder Winthrop of Boston to his son at Pequot, Aug. 14, 1648:

"Your neighbor Lothrop came not near me, as I expected, to advise about it; but went away without taking leave. Only enquiring after him I sent my letters to the house where he wrought the day before his departure." Sav. Win., 2, 355, App.

† This was her first marriage; she was about 60 years of age.

## INSCRIPTION UPON HER GRAVE-STONE.



FOOT-STONE.





At the time of her decease, the descendants of her husband amounted to 365.

John Lothrop, the oldest son of Samuel, married Ruth Royce. Elizabeth, the oldest daughter of Samuel, was united at the same time to Isaac Royce. This double marriage was solemnized in the court room at New London, Dec. 15, 1669, by Daniel Wetherell, Commissioner, the presiding officer of the court. It was not uncommon for the bench and bar to be thus enlivened with a wedding during the interludes of business.

Incidental testimony leads to the conclusion that Nathaniel Royce subsequently married Sarah, the second daughter of Samuel Lothrop, forming a third nuptial link in the two families. These young people all went to Wallingford, and were early settlers in that plantation.

Samuel Lothrop had three other sons, Samuel, Israel, and Joseph.

Samuel was joined in wedlock, Nov., 1675, to Hannah Adgate. Israel Lothrop and Rebecca Bliss, Joseph Lothrop and Macy Scudder, were married the same day, April 8, 1686. These three brothers settled in Norwich.

The Lothrop, or Lathrops,\* who look back to Norwich for their ancestry, like the Huntingtons and Hydes, have become so numerous that a mere outline of the branches, if it were possible to follow them in their numerous emigrations and connections, would occupy many pages. The name will frequently occur in this history, and only a few prominent persons can be noticed here.

Colonel Simon Lothrop, third son of Samuel 2d and Hannah (Adgate) Lothrop, born in 1689, was a man of more than ordinary local renown. He commanded one of the Connecticut regiments in the successful expeditions against Annapolis and Louisburg, and was valued for his judgment in council as well as for his gallant bearing in the field. At one period he was left for a considerable time in the chief command of the fortress at Cape Breton.

Col. Lothrop was of a prudent, thrifty disposition, fond of adding land to land, and house to house. There was a doggerel song that the soldiers used to sing after their return from *Capertoon*, that alludes to this propensity.

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\* The name appears to have been usually, if not invariably, written *Lothrop*, until about 1760, when Dr. Daniel Lothrop, having spent some time in England, and while there having made special inquiry concerning his ancestors, became convinced that the original name was *Lathrop*. He therefore altered the spelling of his own name, and the change was gradually adopted by other branches of the family. The old pronunciation, *Lotrop*, held its ground much longer, and is still occasionally heard.

In this work the old spelling is retained in connection with the early families that wrote the name *Lothrop*, as it seemed desirable to use the form that appeared in coeval records; but in later generations the modern spelling is employed.

Col. Lotrop he came on  
 As bold as Alexander:  
 He wa'n't afraid, nor yet ashamed,  
 To be the chief commander.

Col. Lotrop was the man,  
 His soldiers loved him dearly;  
 And with his sword and cannon great,  
 He helped them late and early.

Col. Lotrop, staunch and true,  
 Was never known to baulk it;  
 And when he was engag'd in trade,  
 He always filled his pocket.

Col. Lothrop died Jan. 25, 1775, aged 86. He was an upright man, zealous in religion, faithful in training up his family, and much respected and esteemed for his abilities and social virtues. His wife was a Separatist, and he carefully abstained from any interference with her predilections, but was accustomed every Sunday to carry her in his chaise up to her meeting, half a mile beyond his own,—then return to his own place of worship, and after the service was over, go up town again after his wife.

Col. Lothrop was the father of Simon and Elijah Lathrop, who were prominent inhabitants of the town, and for a long period proprietors of the mills at Norwich Falls.

17 Feb., 1745. The house of Samuel Lothrop Esq. of Norwich was burnt at night, and almost all its contents destroyed. The loss estimated at £2000 Old Tenor. [Boston paper.]

Israel, the third son of the proprietor Samuel, was the father of seven sons and three daughters. William, the second of these seven sons, born in 1688, was one of the old worthies of the town-plot. He lived to the age of ninety years, and had ten children, all of them sons. The youngest but one of this train was the Rev. John Lathrop, a distinguished minister of Boston, but born at Norwich, May 6, 1739. After completing his education at Princeton, he became for a time an assistant to Mr. Wheelock in his Indian school at Lebanon, but in 1768 was ordained to the pastoral charge of the old North Church in Boston. This church having been demolished by the British while they had possession of Boston, the society united with the new Brick Church, and Mr. Lathrop became the pastor of the United Society. He published a variety of sermons, and died in 1816, aged seventy-five.

Joseph Lothrop, the fourth and youngest son of the first Samuel, had a family of nine daughters, assisting largely in bringing the sexes in the Lothrop series to an even balance. He had also four sons, the youngest



of whom, Solomon, died at the age of twenty-seven, leaving an only son, Joseph, who has become extensively known as Rev. Joseph Lathrop, D. D. of West Springfield, Mass. He was born at the Lothrop farm upon the west bank of the Shetucket, Oct. 20, 1721. His mother was Martha, daughter of Dea. Joseph Perkins.

Dr. Lathrop was the pastor of one church sixty-three years, and for a long period was regarded as the patriarch of the Congregational churches of New England. As a preacher he was remarkable for the variety of his illustrations and his improvement of daily occurrences. A large proportion of his sermons, which have been published in seven volumes, are upon anniversaries and striking events. He died Dec. 31, 1820, aged eighty-nine years.

Hon. Samuel Lathrop, M. C. from Mass. from 1818 to 1826, was one of his sons.

The following is the oldest Lothrop inscription that is extant and legible in the Norwich grave-yard :

“Here Lyes Buried ye Body of Mr. Israell Lothrup ye Husband of Mrs. Rebekah Lothrup, who lived a life of exemplary piety & left ye Earth for Heaven March ye 28, 1733 in ye 73d year of his age.”

## CHAPTER XIII.

### EARLY INHABITANTS.

[CATALOGUE of inhabitants that came in after the first settlers, and appear as residents of the town-plot, or as grantees on the commons and outlands. The earliest date is given at which the name has been noticed, but in some instances the person may have been upon the ground for several previous years. This chapter is not designed to include those who settled east of the Shetucket, but the exact location of each new inhabitant can not always be ascertained.

Adm. stands for admitted inhabitant by public vote.]

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*Allen.* Timothy Allen married Oct. 11, 1714, Rachel, daughter of Joseph Bushnell; adm. 1715; removed subsequently to Windham.

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*Allerton.* Thomas Allerton had his cattle-mark registered in 1712.

John Allerton was one of the selectmen in 1721. His wife was Elizabeth, and he had nine children, the births ranging from 1713 to 1735. The name of Isaac appearing among them, suggests a connection with Isaac Allerton of Plymouth and New Haven,\* but his antecedents have not been ascertained.

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*Ames, Eames, Emms.* Joseph Eames had a son Joseph, baptized April 2, 1710. He died in 1734. Three sons are brought to view in the settlement of the estate: Joseph, Ebenezer, and Josiah. The relict, Mary, married Daniel Palmeter.

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*Andrews, Andrus, Andross.* Jeremiah Andrews adm. May 7, 1714. John Andrews, Sen., adm. 1716.

These were probably sons of Francis Andrews, who died at Fairfield in 1663, and in his will enumerated nine children, among whom were John and Jeremiah.

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\* Mass. Hist. Coll., Vol. 27, p. 248.



John Andrews, Jr., adm. 1716.

John and Sarah, children of John *Andross*, Jr., were baptized July 5, 1713.

David and Benjamin Andross appear also as inhabitants about 1715.

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*Armstrong.* Jonathan Armstrong settled before 1670 at Misquamicut, (Westerly,) where he had a stormy experience of several years' continuance amid the riots, inroads, writs and judgments that disturbed the debatable lands on the borders of the two colonies, Connecticut and Rhode Island. In partial redress of his grievances, the Legislature of Connecticut granted him in October, 1677, one hundred acres of land near the bounds of Norwich.\*

Nathaniel Armstrong was a grantee of the town in 1679, and Benjamin in 1682.

Benjamin Armstrong died Jan. 10, 1717-18, leaving four sons, Benjamin, John, Joseph, and Stephen, all of age. Benjamin married Sarah Raymond, and in 1703 was one of the patentees of Mansfield. Stephen settled in Windham. Joseph was a householder in 1716. John married in 1710, Anne Worth, and had a numerous family.

Lebbeus Armstrong, a descendant of John, removed about 1770 to Bennington, Vt.

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*Arnold.* John Arnold was a land-holder, both by grant and purchase, in 1683. He removed a few years later to Windham.

Benedict Arnold took the freeman's oath in 1739.

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*Avery,* Jonathan, adm. 1724.

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*Baker.* Joseph Baker, an inhabitant before 1690, was received with his wife into the West Farms church in 1721.

Nathaniel Baker, a resident in 1718. Ebenezer, adm. 1724.

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*Bacon,* John: adm. 1713; wife Hannah received into the church and four children baptized in 1718.

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*Badger.* Nathaniel Badger, adm. 1721, probably came from Newbury. Daniel Badger married Sarah Roath, Oct. 22, 1719.

The births of three children, Daniel, Gideon, and David, are recorded in Norwich.

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\* Conn. Col. Rec., 2, 324.

*Barrett*, Ezekiel, 1711. Isaac, 1716.

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*Barstow*. Job, the son of John Barstow, born at Scituate, March 8, 1679, adm. at Norwich in 1708. He and his wife Rebecca, who was the daughter of Joseph Bushnell, were baptized and received into the church Aug. 9, 1709. In 1725 he was one of the selectmen. He had three sons: Jonathan, born in 1712; Ebenezer, in 1720; and Yet-once, July 17, 1722.

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*Bates*, William: cattle-mark registered 1678.

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*Belden*, Stephen: adm. 1720.

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*Bell*. Robert Bell came from Ipswich about 1720. He appears to have been a physician, and had married at that place, Nov. 7, 1717, Abigail, relict of John Fillmore. He died Aug. 23, 1727, and his wife in November of the same year. They left three children: Samuel, born in Ipswich, 1719; Benjamin and Deliverance, natives of Norwich.

[This Robert Bell may have been a son of Robert of Hartford, as the latter had a son Robert born in 1680.\*]

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*Blackmore*, Samuel: one of the Separatist party in 1748.

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*Boorn*, or *Bourn*, George: a resident in 1726, and had a son George, baptized March 8, 1729.

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*Brown*. Ebenezer Brown, son of Capt. John Brown of Swanzey, and grandson of Major Mason, married Sarah, daughter of the second Samuel Hyde, Feb. 25, 1714. They removed to Lebanon, where he died in 1755. His relict long survived him, and died in Windham, March 1, 1797, aged ninety-nine years and two months.

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*Burton*, Samuel: a resident in 1719.

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*Burley*, Jonathan: adm. 1727; mar. March 30, 1730, Elizabeth White.

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\* Savage's Gen. Dict.



*Capron*, Walter: 1730.

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*Carew*. Thomas Carew married Sept. 10, 1724, Abigail, daughter of Daniel Huntington. Joseph Carew, brother of Thomas, married in 1731, Mary, daughter of the same, and died in 1747, leaving seven children; estate, £2,847.

Palmer Carew was an inhabitant in 1730.

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*Carpenter*, John: adm. 1723; probably son of William of Rehoboth. His wife, Sarah, was received into the church the same year.

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*Carter*, John: united with the church in 1722.

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*Case*. Moses Case, adm. Sept. 13, 1726.

John, son of John Case, baptized in 1729.

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*Cathcart*, Robert: an inhabitant in 1728.

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*Chapman*. Joseph Chapman, probably son of William of New London, adm. 1715; died June 10, 1725. His wife, Marcy, died seven days previous. Eight children are recorded. Two of the sons, Moses and Daniel, are on the list of Separatists in 1748.

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*Chappell*, Caleb, son of George of New London, was resident in 1694, but removed to Windham.

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*Cleveland*. Isaac Cleveland, adm. 1709, was probably son of Moses of Woburn, who had a son Isaac, born May 11, 1669. Samuel and Josiah Cleveland, early settlers at Canterbury, appear to have been his brothers. In 1715, Elizabeth, wife of Clement Stratford, mariner, administered on the estate of her former husband, Isaac Cleveland. No mention is made of children.

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*Coolidge*, Samuel, a resident in 1694.

*Cole.* "The inventory of Ambrose Cole of Norwich, deceased," was presented to the county court in 1690. Probably the family came from Scituate.

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*Cotterel*, Gershom: a resident in 1678.

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*Crane.* Jonathan Crane, probably from Killingworth, had land registered in 1672, and married, Dec. 19, 1678, Deborah, daughter of Francis Griswold. He removed to Windham, where he had a thousand acre right; built the first mill in that plantation; was one of the selectmen in 1692, and a patentee of the town in 1703.

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*Crocker.* Samuel Crocker settled at West Farms about 1700, and was one of the selectmen in 1722. He was probably son of Thomas of New London, and born at that place in 1677. He had four children, Samuel, John, Jabez, and Hannah, baptized in 1709.

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*Cross.* Peter Cross had land recorded in 1672, and was a resident in 1698, but afterward removed to Windham.  
George Cross, a resident in 1719.

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*Cullum*, Benjamin: adm. 1715. Abigail, daughter of Benjamin and Abigail Cullum, baptized in 1718.

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*Culver.* The marriage of Edward and Sarah Culver is recorded Jan. 15, 1681; the births of seven children follow.

Edward Culver was on the board of Listers in 1685. In 1698 he removed to Lebanon, and was living there in 1716.

John Culver and his wife Sarah united with the church at Norwich in 1721.

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*Culverswell*, Thomas, died April 15, 1725.

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*Darby*, Samuel, a resident in 1700.

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*Davis.* Ephraim Davis was on the roll of 1702. Thomas, Comfort and Joseph appear as inhabitants soon after 1712. Thomas had daughter Mercy baptized in 1711.



*Daynes, or Deans.* Abraham Daynes of North Yarmouth mar. Dec. 27, 1671, Sarah, daughter of William Peake. This marriage is recorded at New London, with the births of three children, Johanna, John, and Thomas. Three others are on record at Norwich, viz., Ebenezer, Sarah, and Ephraim. The sons are found among the inhabitants of the town in the next generation, but the name is more frequently written *Deans*. James and Oxenbridge Deans were young men in 1738.

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*Dean.* Nathaniel Dean, adm. Dec. 28, 1714; wife, Joanna, probably from Taunton. Seth Dean, 1739.

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*Decker.* Joseph Decker and wife Thankful were received into fellowship with the church in 1714. They removed to Windham.

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*Denison,* Capt. Robert, adm. 1718. His farm of 500 acres, conveyed to him by Owaneco, with the consent of the Legislature, in 1710, lay upon the border of Mashipaug or Gardner's lake, and was then supposed to fall within the Nine-miles-square. He began his improvements at this place in 1716, but when the bounds of the town were more accurately defined, the greater part of his farm, including his family residence, was found to lie within the limits of New London North Parish, and after 1720 his connection with Norwich ceased.

Capt. Denison died in 1737, and was interred in a cemetery prepared by himself on his farm, where a group of Denison graves, with granite curb-stones marked with initials and dates, still remain.

His son, the second Capt. Robert Denison, was an officer in the French war, and removed to Nova Scotia.

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*Dennis,* John: a resident at the Landing in 1739.

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*Dowd.* The cattle-mark of Abraham Dowd was recorded in 1723. He was probably a son of John Dowd of Guilford, born in 1697.

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*Edgecombe,* Thomas, born in New London, 1694, settled in Norwich before 1720, and there died Sept. 16, 1745. His first wife was Katherine Copp; his second, Esther Post, who survived him but a few months. While on her way to New London, she was thrown from her horse, severely wounded in the head, and carried to the house of Mr. William Angel, where she lingered for a fortnight in great pain and distress. The

whole neighborhood was moved by her sufferings, and several physicians hastened to her relief. Dr. Goddard came from New London, with Dr. Morrison, an army surgeon, just returned from Cape Breton, Dr. Worden from Franklin, and Dr. Porter from Wethersfield; but surgical skill was exerted in vain. She died May 20, 1746, aged forty, and was interred at New London.

The sons of Thomas Edgecombe by his first wife were Thomas, John, Jonathan, and Samuel.

Thomas died in Norwich, April 39, 1755.

John was a soldier in the expedition against Cape Breton, and there died after the surrender in 1746, at the age of twenty.

Jonathan, a seaman, was taken by a Spanish privateer, Aug. 3, 1752; carried first to Campeachy, and from thence to Old Spain, where he was kept confined for several months, but at length picked the lock of his prison, escaped and reached a French port in safety. Here he found an English vessel, on board of which he worked his passage to England, but had scarcely touched the Island, when he fell into the hands of a press-gang and was enrolled on board of a man-of-war. After a year's service he contrived to escape, and through various other adventures, finally reached home, Nov. 30, 1754. He afterward settled in Vermont.

Samuel, the fourth son, was Deacon Samuel Edgecombe of Groton, Ct., who died Aug. 14, 1795, aged 65.

*Fairbanks*, Samuel: a resident in 1722.

*Fales*. Samuel Fales, adm. 1708; received into communion with the church in 1711; died 1733. He was son of Mr. James Fales of Dedham, and son-in-law to John Elderkin. His inventory included a more than ordinary number of religious books. It is probable that he was theological student.

*Fargo*. Moses Fargo came from New London about 1690, and in 1694 obtained a grant of land "on the hill above the rock where his house stands." He was on the roll of 1702, and died about 1726. Name often written Firgo.

*Field*. Verdict of a jury upon the body of Gregory Field: "Found dead in Shoutucket river in Norwich, 29 April, 1710."



*Fillmore.* John, son of John Fillmore, was born at Ipswich, March 18, 1702. His father was a mariner, and died at sea about the year 1711. His mother's maiden name was Abigail Tilton. She married for her second husband, Robert Bell, and removed with him to Norwich West Farms. Her son, John Fillmore, returning from sea, was united Nov. 9, 1724, to Mary Spiller of Ipswich, and on the 28th of the same month made a purchase of lands in Norwich, where he planted his hearth-stone and spent the remainder of his days.

Some extraordinary incidents are connected with his previous history. While out on a fishing voyage, he had been captured by a noted pirate of the name of Phillips, and compelled to perform duty as the helmsman of the freebooting craft; but after nine months of this odious service, he combined with several other prisoners that had been subsequently taken, and at a concerted signal, making a desperate attack upon their captors, they killed and threw overboard the captain and a number of his crew, disabled the rest, took possession of the vessel, and navigated her to Boston, where they arrived May 3, 1724, and gave their prisoners up to justice. Three of them were executed in Boston, and three sent to England, where they suffered at Execution Dock. The gun, sword, tobacco-box, buckles and rings of the captain of the corsair were awarded by the Court of Admiralty to young Fillmore, as spoils won by his valor and decision. A part of these articles are still preserved as relics by his descendants.\*

He was subsequently known as Capt. John Fillmore of Norwich West Farms,—a man of probity, and a useful citizen, a member of the church, and captain of a military company. He was three times married, and his will mentions fourteen surviving children. He died Feb. 22, 1777, aged 75 years.

Nathaniel, one of the sons of his second wife, (Dorcas Day of Pomfret,) born in 1740, married Hepzibah Wood, and settled at Bennington, Vt., when that part of the country was new and unsubdued. He served as a soldier in the French war and in the war for independence, and died at Bennington in 1814. His son, Nathaniel 2d, born in 1771, married Phebe Millard of Bennington, and he and his brothers, following the example of their ancestors, removed into the wilderness, and settled in Western New York, where they became farmers, and in the course of time, clerks, teachers, justices, and members of the Assembly. This Nathaniel 2d was the father of Millard Fillmore, thirteenth President of the United States, who was born in Cayuga Co., N. Y., Jan. 7, 1800.†

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\* See Memoir by Ashbel Woodward, M. D., in Hist. & Gen. Reg., 11, 61.

† President Fillmore, on account of the connection of his ancestry with Norwich, attended the Bi-centennial Celebration in 1859, and manifested a cordial interest in the proceedings.

The descendants of Capt. John Fillmore emigrated not only to Vermont, but to Nova Scotia and other provinces, and have been widely scattered; yet representatives of the name and family were left in Norwich and Franklin, where the lineage is still to be found, comprising descendants of the brave Capt. John and also of his brother Ebenezer, who married Thankful Carrier in 1733.

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*Ford*, John : adm. 1722; married May 26, 1729, Ann Holloway.

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*Fowler*. Jonathan Fowler married Aug. 3, 1687, Elizabeth Reynolds. The *widow Fowler* is incidentally mentioned in 1698.

Thomas Fowler of Lebanon, died in 1707.

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*Fox*. Isaac Fox, adm. 1721; Thomas, 1722.

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*Frasier*. Colin Frasier married in 1718, Sarah, daughter of Paul Wentworth. In January, 1724, Mrs. Frasier was arrested on the charge of killing an Indian woman in a fit of insanity. On the 24th of February, while imprisoned at New London, the unhappy woman, in another access of her malady, to which she was constitutionally subject, plunged a knife into her own throat, but the wound did not prove fatal. She was tried in March, and fully acquitted on the ground of *distraction*.

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*French*, John French, Senior, of the West Farms, adm. 1724; died April 20, 1730, leaving sons, Abner, John, Joseph, and Samuel.

John French, Jr., [Major John French] married Aug. 21, 1729, Phebe, daughter of Thomas Hyde.

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*Gaylord*, Josiah, 1675. He was probably son of William of Windsor, and step-son of John Elderkin. He is on the roll of 1702; his "house at Pock-nuck" is mentioned in 1720. He died in 1727.

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*Gibbons*, John, 1719. "Hambleton Gibbons," connected with a disturbance in the meeting-house, 1723.

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*Gookin*. Edward Gookin, adm. Sept. 13, 1726. He had four children baptized at dates ranging from February, 1723, to March, 1730. He was



probably son of Daniel Gookin of Sherborn, whose wife was a daughter of Edmund Quincy, and who had a son Edmund, born March 31, 1688.

Edmund of Norwich had wife Sarah, and two sons, Samuel and Daniel. The former has not been traced, but Daniel, with his parents and their three daughters, who lived to be aged spinsters, all sleep together in the town burial-ground.

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*Gould*, Nathaniel, 1730.

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*Gorton*. Benjamin Gorton, from Warwick, R. I., on the 20th of September, 1717, purchased the valuable farm of Peter Mason near the Great Pond, or Mashipaug Lake, 500 acres, with dwelling-house and other buildings, for £500. This farm was then supposed to lie within the bounds of Norwich, and he was for several years considered an inhabitant. He died in 1737.

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*Gove*, Samuel and Nathaniel, adm. 1723.

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*Green*, Robert of Peagscomsuck, 1696.

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*Grist*. Thomas Grist married Ann Birchard, Aug. 14, 1721; adm. 1726.

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*Grover*, Ebenezer, first mentioned about 1720.

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*Hall*. Thomas Hall, adm. 1701; probably came from Woburn. Thomas, Jr., adm. Dec. 21, 1712.

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*Hamilton*, Solomon, a resident in 1738.

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*Hammond*, Joseph, 1712. Caleb, married Nov. 21, 1723, Mary Brewster; adm. 1727. Elijah, adm. 1730.

Isaac, of Norwich, bought a farm on Mohegan hill in 1734, for £660.

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*Harrington*. Isaac Harrington died 1727; left wife Sarah, and four children, Isaac, Silvanus, James, and Patience.

*Harris.* John Harris, adm. Dec. 21, 1712, died 1728; left wife Susanah; other legatees, "brother Robert and his son John of Brookline, in New England."

Gibson, son of Samuel Harris of New London, born 1694, settled in 1726 on a farm in New Concord, now Bozrah. His wife was Phebe, daughter of Capt. George Denison. He died in 1761. He was the father of Dr. Benjamin Harris of Preston.

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*Hartshorn.* David and Jonathan Hartshorn, brothers, from Reading, settled at the West Farms, and are on the roll of inhabitants in 1702.

David was a physician; selectman in 1709; built a saw-mill on Beaver brook in 1713; was one of the first deacons of the West Farms church; died Nov. 3, 1738, aged 81. He was a man of good report, and a valuable citizen. His wife was Rebecca Batcheler.

Jonathan Hartshorn, probably son of Jonathan above named, married in 1709, Lucy Hempsted of New London, and in 1726 removed with his family to Cecil county, Maryland.

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*Haskins, or Hoskins.* Richard and John were early residents. Richard died in 1718, leaving nine children; estate, £1,257. John died in 1719, leaving seven children.

Daniel, adm. Dec. 5, 1721, married Mehitable Badger.

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*Hazen.* Thomas Hazen, adm. Dec. 21, 1712. He and his wife were received to church membership by letter from the church in Bosford.

John Hazen, adm. 1715. Joseph and Jacob also became residents near this time.

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*Heath.* John Heath came from Haverhill. His wife, Hannah, was received into the church, and her son Josiah baptized, 1715.

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*Hendrick,* Isaac, a resident in 1721.

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*Hill,* Charles, a Separatist in 1748.

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*Hodges,* Ephraim, adm. 1729.



*Hough*, John, 1678 ; son of William Hough of New London, and there born Oct. 17, 1655. He was a house-builder, and much employed both in Norwich and New London, acquiring lands and houses in each place. He died at New London, Aug. 26, 1715, suddenly deprived of life by a fall from the scaffolding of a house on which he was at work. He was a large man, of a military turn, and active also in civil affairs, extensively known and highly esteemed. The sudden stroke that swept him into eternity, resounded through the country with startling emphasis.

The wife of Capt. Hough was Sarah Post of Norwich. He had a farm in New Concord Society, the land being an original grant from the town in payment for building a school-house. His youngest son, Jabez, born in 1702, inherited this farm, and there died, Jan. 24, 1725, only seventeen days after his marriage with Anne Denison of New London. The farm was after this the homestead of his older brother John, and from him it went to his son Jabez, who married Phebe Harris, who died at the age of 92, July 23, 1820.

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*Hutchins*. John Hutchins, adm. Dec. 20, 1715 ; a constable in 1726 and 1727.

Thomas Hutchins, inn-keeper at Newent in 1733.

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*Hutchinson*, Joshua, adm. April 29, 1729.

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*Jennings*. Land granted to Jonathan Jennings in 1677. In 1684 he had other grants at Senemancutt and Sucksqutumscot. He removed to Windham, and there died June 27, 1733, in his 79th year. His son, Ebenezer, was the first male child of English parentage born in Windham.\*

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*Jones*, John, a resident in 1712 ; died 1749.

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*Johnson*. "Ten acres of land at Lebanon Valley," granted to John Johnson in 1677 ; also a grant at Westward hill. His cattle-mark was registered in 1683 ; he was a Lister in 1698.

Isaac Johnson of Norwich died Jan. 7, 1708.

Ensign William Johnson of Canterbury, who probably went from Norwich, died Feb. 23, 1713.

Ebenezer Johnson of the West Farms, 1718, married Deborah Champion.

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\* Weaver's Ancient Windham.

*Kelly*, Joseph, a resident in 1716.

Thomas, adm. 1719. Probably both came from Newbury.

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*Kennedy*, Robert, a resident in 1730; had wife Mary.

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*Kimball*, Richard, 1722.

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*King*, Edward, a resident in 1699: adm. 1701; died before 1726.

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*Kingsbury*. Joseph, from Haverhill, Mass., with his sons, Joseph, Jr., and Nathaniel, adm. 1710. The wife of the elder Joseph was Love Ayres, and of the younger, Ruth Denison, both of Haverhill. The wife of Nathaniel has not been ascertained. He had son John, born in 1710, and Nathaniel in 1711.

Joseph Kingsbury, Sen. was one of the first deacons of the West Farms church, chosen in 1718. Joseph, Jr. was one of the eight pillars, and their wives, Love and Ruth Kingsbury, were among the earliest members received. Dea. Joseph Kingsbury died in 1741.

Joseph Kingsbury, Jr. was an ensign in 1721, selectman in 1723, captain of a company in 1726, chosen deacon in 1736, and died Dec. 1, 1757, aged 75. He had 13 children.

Mrs. Ruth Kingsbury, relict of the second Deacon Joseph, died May 6, 1779, aged 93, leaving behind the remarkable number of 231 descendants, viz., 5 children, 61 of the next generation, 152 of the 4th, and 13 of the 5th. The homestead farm is still in possession of descendants of the same name.

Andrew Kingsbury, an officer of the Revolution, and subsequently, from 1793 to 1818, State Treasurer of Connecticut, was a descendant of Joseph, Jr., in the line of his son Ephraim.

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*Kirby*, Richard, adm. 1721.

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*Knowles*, Thomas, adm. 1710.

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*Knowlton*, Joseph, accidentally killed, 1718; "no estate but two cows."  
Mary, daughter of Thomas Knowlton, a member of the church in 1709.



*Ladd.* In 1709, Samuel Ladd, from Haverhill, Suffolk Co., Mass., purchased land of David Hartshorn "on the hill beyond Thomas Hide's farm." Adm. 1710.

Nathaniel Ladd was selectman in 1721, but in 1729 had removed from the town.

David Ladd, another early settler at the West Farms, married Mary Waters. His family and that of Capt. Jacob Hyde were linked together by a triple marriage of their children. The three brothers, Samuel, Ezekiel and Joseph Ladd, married the three sisters, Hannah, Ruth and Silence Hyde, both parties in the natural order of seniority, and each of the sisters at the age of 19 years.

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*Lamb.* Ebenezer Lamb married May 6, 1690, Mary Armstrong.

David, Isaac and John Lamb were residents about 1718. John died Aug. 16, 1727.

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*Lawrence,* Isaac, owned the church covenant in 1700; was adm. 1702. Isaac Lawrence, Jun., had four children baptized at dates from 1711 to 1718.

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*Lee.* Richard Lee, adm. 1705; died Aug. 7, 1713; left widow Sarah, and nine children: the oldest son Thomas 40 years of age, Richard 34 Joseph 32, and Benjamin 30.

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*Loomer,* Samuel, of the parish of New Concord, adm. Sept. 13, 1726.

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*Lord.* Cyprian, a younger brother of Rev. Benjamin Lord, settled in Norwich about 1720, and married in 1725, Elizabeth Backus.

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*Low.* The only person of this name found on the records is David, adm. 1709; died Feb. 10, 1710, aged 23. His estate was settled by Thomas Leffingwell. The low semicircular head-stone that marks his grave is one of the oldest in the town-plot cemetery.

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*Lyon,* Ebenezer, 1722.

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*Marshall.* "Abial Marshall of Norwich and Abiah Hough of New London were married 18 Nov. 1708." Their oldest son, the second Abia Marshall, died in Bozrah, Dec. 1, 1799.

*Meach.* John Meach is on a list of 1698.

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*Metcalf.* Ebenezer Metcalf, from Dedham, married in 1702, Hannah, daughter of Joshua Abel of the West Farms, and had five children baptized, extending to 1711. He was on the roll of inhabitants in 1718, but removed to Lebanon, and there died Nov. 5, 1755, aged 76. He was a descendant of Michael Metcalf, who had lived at Norwich in England, but emigrated to this country with his wife and nine children in 1637, and settled at Dedham.

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*Merrick.* Stephen Merrick married Mercy Bangs, Dec. 28, 1671, he being 25 and she 20 years of age. Mercy and Apphia Bangs were twin daughters of Edward Bangs of Plymouth colony, and were married the same day,—Apphia probably to John Knowles.\*

Stephen Merrick came to Norwich about 1672. He was a constable in 1681, and appointed county marshal or sheriff in 1685.

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*Moore.* Grants of land were made to William Moore in 1677 and 1682. He had land also at Potapaug and "over the river at a place called Major's Pond." He married the relict of Thomas Harwood in August, 1677, and about twenty years later removed to Windham.

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*Morgan.* Two of this name are found early at Norwich, and left families there,—William and Peter. William was probably son of William and Margaret (Avery) Morgan of Groton, (born 1697.)

Peter was a son of John Rose-Morgan of New London, born in 1712. His wife was Elizabeth Whitmore of Middletown, and his house stood under the hill upon the site afterwards built upon by Rev. Joseph Strong, and now the residence of D. F. Gulliver, M. D. Peter Morgan removed to the Great Plain.

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*Moseley, or Maudsley.* The earliest notice of this name is found in the baptismal record:

"Increase and Sarah, children of Increase Maudsley, bap. 6:9:1715," that is, Nov. 6, 1715.

Increase Moseley, the father, died in 1731.

Increase, the son, born May 18, 1712, married in 1735, Deborah Tracy of Windham, and removed about 1740 to Woodbury, settling in that part

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† Gen. Dict., article Bangs. Merrick is there erroneously printed Herrick, and the date of the marriage 1670 instead of 1671.



of the town which is now Washington. He there sustained various offices of trust and honor, representing the town in the legislature for some fifteen successive years, but removed to Clarendon, Vt., in 1781, and there died May 2, 1795.

His son, the third Increase Moseley in direct succession, probably born also in Norwich, settled in Southbury, and was a colonel of one of the Connecticut regiments during the Revolutionary war.\*

Rev. Peabody Moseley, son of the first Increase, was born at Norwich in 1724. He was a Baptist clergyman, but about the year 1780, joined the Shaker society of New Lebanon.

*Munsell*, Elisha, 1720. Elisha, Jr., 1721. The latter was on the list of Separatists in 1748.

*Norman*, James, adm. Dec. 20, 1715. He was captain of a vessel; kept also a shop of merchandize; and in 1717 was licensed to keep a house of entertainment. He died June 28, 1743.

*Ormsby*, John, adm. Dec. 20, 1715; died July 11, 1728. His relict, Susannah, died in 1752.

Joseph, adm. 1720; wife Abigail united with the church in 1721.

*Palmeter*, Daniel, adm. 1724.

*Pasmore*. The inventory of Joseph Pasmore of Norwich was exhibited in 1711, comprising a Bible, psalm-book, sword, articles of apparel, and twelve acres of land.

*Peck*, Benjamin, adm. 1700. The church record gives the names of eight children of "brother Benjamin Peck," that were baptized from 1703 to 1718. He died in 1742. Joseph, his oldest son, born in 1706, was father of the late Capt. Bela Peck of Norwich.

The ancestor of this family was Henry Peck of New Haven, whose twin sons, Joseph and Benjamin, were born Sept. 6, 1647.

\* Cothren's History of Woodbury.

*Pember*, John: adm. 1722; son of John and Agnes Pember of New London. He married in 1716, Mary, daughter of Thomas Hyde, and settled at West Farms, where he died in 1783, aged 85.

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*Pettis*, Samuel, adm. 1727.

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*Phillips*, George, adm. 1726.

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*Pierce*, Jonathan and Ebenezer, adm. 1712.

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*Pike*. Elizabeth, wife of John Pike, baptized Aug. 5, 1711; son John baptized 1712, and other children onward to 1723.

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*Pitcher*. Samuel Pitcher, supposed to be a son of Andrew of Dorchester, had son Benjamin baptized in Norwich, March 20, 1714. He was one of the selectmen in 1721, but in 1735 removed to Woodbury, Ct. A part of the family remained, and the name has been continued in the town to the present day.

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*Polly*. Matthew, 1719, probably from Woburn.  
Abigail, wife of Daniel Polly, died June 8, 1725.

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*Prior*, Joshua, a householder in 1733.

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*Raymond*. Samuel Raymond of Norwich and Lydia Birchard of Lebanon were united in marriage March 6, 1717. They had sons Samuel and Daniel, the former born Dec. 25, 1720.

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*Richards*, Nathaniel, an inhabitant in 1716.  
Andrew, adm. 1727.

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*Roberts*, Samuel, 1678, son of Hugh Roberts, an early settler in New London. He came to Norwich as a house-carpenter, in company with John Hough. These two men were often associated in work, and called themselves *near kinsmen*, the mother of each being a daughter of Hugh Calkins. The first school-house in Norwich, of which we have any notice,



was built by John Hough and Samuel Roberts, and paid for in land in 1683. They were the master-builders of many early houses in the town-plot,—the regular, substantial houses that followed the temporary habitations of the first encampment.

Samuel, son of Samuel Roberts, was born May 9, 1688.

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*Rogers*, Theophilus, 1720 ; a native of Lynn, Mass., and reputed to be a descendant of John Rogers, the Smithfield martyr. He had studied physic and surgery in Boston, and settled at Norwich in the practice of his profession. He died Sept. 29, 1753. Two of his sons, Ezekiel and Theophilus, were physicians, and two others, Uriah and Col. Zabdiel, were conspicuous as active citizens and patriots of the Revolutionary period.

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*Rood*. Thomas Rood was an early settler upon the outlands of the township. His wife, Sarah, died in March, 1668, and he in 1672. Nine children are recorded, the dates of birth ranging from 1649 to 1666, but the place of nativity is not given.

Thomas, Micah, Samuel and George Rood are on the roll of inhabitants in 1702. Micah obtained some local notoriety on account of a peculiar variety of apple that he brought to market, which was called from him the Mike apple, and has since been more extensively propagated. It is an early species, has a fair outside, an excellent flavor, and each individual apple exhibits somewhere in the pulp a red speck, like a tinge of fresh blood. Several fanciful legends have been contrived to account for this peculiarity. Micah Rood died in December, 1728, aged about 76.

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*Rosebrough*. In 1693, the proprietors granted to George Rosebrough, "three or four acres of land, where his house stands." No other reference to the name has been observed.

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*Rudd*. Jonathan and Nathaniel Rudd, brothers, came from Saybrook. The former settled east of the Shetucket, and the latter at the West Farms. It is probable that they were sons of that Jonathan Rudd who was married at Bride Brook in the winter of 1646–7.

Nathaniel Rudd married, April 16, 1685, Mary, daughter of John Post. His homestead was in that part of the West Farms which is now Bozrah. He died in April, 1727, leaving an estate valued at £689.

Daniel Rudd, one of the sons of Nathaniel, born in 1710, married for his second wife, (July 1, 1745,) Mary Metcalf, a daughter of the Rev. Joseph Metcalf of Falmouth, Me. She had previously been living with

her relatives in Lebanon, to which place she came from her far-off home, according to tradition, in a three-days' journey, riding on a pillion behind Capt. James Fitch. Her son, Daniel Rudd, Jr., born June 10, 1754, married Abigail Allen of Montville, who died Jan. 20, 1857, wanting only a few months of being 100 years of age. Lucy Rudd, one of the daughters of this couple, married, first, Capt. Henry Caldwell of the U. S. Marines, and second, Major-General Henry Burbeck, an officer of the Revolutionary war and of that of 1812. General Burbeck died at New London, Oct. 2, 1848, aged 95. His relict, Mrs. Lucy Burbeck, is still living. It is a singular coincidence, occurring, it is presumed, very rarely in the history of families, that Mrs. Burbeck's father, Daniel Rudd, and her husband, Henry Burbeck, were born on the same day,—June 10, 1754.

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*Sabin* : often upon early records written Sabiens. Isaac, adm. 1720.

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*Sluman*. Thomas Sluman married, Dec., 1668, Sarah, daughter of Thomas Bliss; constable in 1680; died 1683, leaving a son Thomas and five daughters. His relict married Solomon Tracy. Thomas Sluman, 2d, was on the roll of 1702.

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*Smallbent*. Mark Smallbent died Dec. 26, 1696; left two young daughters; estate, £143.

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*Spalding*. Andrew, son of Philip Spalding, was baptized July 15, 1722.

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*Starr*. Samuel, son of Jonathan of Groton, married Ann, daughter of Capt. Caleb Bushnell, in 1727, and settled in Norwich.

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*Stickney*, Amos, 1725.

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*Stoddard*, Thomas, a resident in the parish of New Concord, 1708; present at a church meeting in 1714.



*Story.* Samuel Story and wife were received into the church in 1722. They came undoubtedly from Ipswich. The inventory of his estate, taken in 1726, has among its items, "a wood-lot in Ipswich." He left a numerous family: five sons who were living are noticed in his will, the children of Ephraim deceased, and six married daughters, viz., Elizabeth Hidden, Mary Andrews, Dorothy Day, Hannah Nolten, Anna Proctor, and Margaret Choate.

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*Swetland.* John, son of John Swetland, was baptized in 1708; another son, Joseph, in 1710. The family, in all probability, dwelt near the western bounds of the town, within the present area of Salem.

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*Tenny, Joseph, adm. 1723.*

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*Todd, Thomas, died Aug. 29, 1727.* He owned one-third of a sloop called the *Norwich*. His relict, Martha, married a Lathrop.

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*Thomas, Ebenezer, adm. 1727.* He owned lands in Duxbury, and was probably son of Jeremiah Thomas of Marshfield, born Nov. 1, 1703. Ebenezer, Simeon, and Thomas L. Thomas, active men of business during the latter part of the century, were his sons. He died Oct. 16, 1774.

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*Tubbs.* Mary, wife of Joseph Tubbs, received adult baptism in 1718.

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*Walker, Jonathan, adm. 1722.*

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*Warren, Robert, a resident in 1713; selectman in 1721.*

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*Way, John, adm. 1722.*

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*Welsh, John, adm. 1705; died 1728: estate, £333; inventory presented by his son John.*

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*White, Daniel, adm. April 30, 1723.* He married Elizabeth Ensworth, June 10, 1723, and died Sept. 9, 1727, leaving a wife and three small children. Estate, £407.

*Whitaker*, Jonathan, 1710. He married, in 1718, Abigail Lambert.

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*Wightman*, Daniel, 1727.

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*Williams*, Joseph, adm. 1702; Charles, of Preston, 1687.

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*Willoughby*, John, 1718.

Joseph, adm. Dec. 5, 1721. He afterwards purchased a farm in the North Parish of New London.

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*Wood*, Thomas, a resident in 1716.

Ebenezer, adm. Dec. 2, 1718; married Mary Rudd, March 12, 1718.

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*Woodworth*, Isaac, adm. 1705; died April 1, 1714, leaving wife Lydia, and nine children between the ages of 8 and 27.

Moses, adm. 1719.



## CHAPTER XIV.

### SETTLERS IN LONG SOCIETY, OR EAST NORWICH, AFTERWARDS INCLUDED IN PRESTON.

SOME of the earliest grantees on the Shetucket river, below its junction with the Quinebaug, were Samuel Andrews, John Reynolds, Josiah Rockwell, and Robert Roath. These grants in some instances crossed the river and took in the land on both sides. Reynolds and Rockwell were at work upon their land on the eastern bank when attacked by the Indians in 1676; but it is not probable that any permanent habitations were reared on that side until after the conclusion of Philip's war.

The Reynolds farm remained long in the possession of the family. A portion of it was sold to the Water Power Company in 1826 by persons to whom it had descended by regular inheritance.

The district on the east side of the river comprised Long Society, or East Norwich; but the grants made by the town were not wholly limited to this society. A considerable portion of Preston was held originally by the same tenure. Its earliest land-owners and inhabitants settled under the authority of Norwich and were admitted to the privileges of the town, included also in the same church bounds, as parishioners of Mr. Fitch.

In all probability Greenfield Larrabee was the first settler in this region,—the first actual inhabitant of the town of Preston. Next to him we may reckon the sons of Norwich proprietors,—Thomas Tracy, Jun., Jonathan Tracy, Samuel Fitch, and Nathaniel Leffingwell, who were cultivating farms on that side of Shetucket river in 1680, or soon afterward.

The lands east of the town line were claimed by Owaneco, and used by him and his clan for their roving, hunting, and planting grounds.

The following entry is from the records of the General Court, at Hartford, May 10, 1679:

“Whereas, Uncas his son hath damnified Thomas Tracy, Jun., in his swine, and Uncas is willing to make him satisfaction for the same in land, this Court grants him liberty to receive of Uncas to the value of 100 acres of land for the said damage, if he see cause to grant it to him, provided it be not prejudicial to any plantation or former grant made by the Court. Lt. Thomas Tracy and Lt. Thomas Leffingwell are appointed to lay out this grant to the said Thomas Tracy, Jun., according to this grant.”

Thomas Tracy's farm east of the Shetucket was not far from Owaneco's claim, and it is not unlikely that the swine were lawfully slain in defence of his corn-fields. But this was an easy way of settling disputes; the Indians set but little value upon their lands, and the settlers were willing to be slightly "damnified," for the sake of the indemnity.

In 1699 the farmers east of the Shetucket petitioned the town that they might be relieved from the ministry rates in Norwich, and pay to Preston. This was not granted, as the people at West Farms and in the crotch of the rivers were similarly situated, and the privilege could not be consistently granted to all.

*Amos.\** Hugh Amos probably came from Boston, where a person of his name was living in 1666. He was propounded for freemanship at Norwich in May, 1671, but an earlier notice of him is the following:

Sept. 26, 1670. "A committee of three persons, John Bradford, Hugh Calkins and Thomas Leffingwell are to agree with Hugh Amos to keep the ferry over Showtuckett river."

This was after the privilege of keeping the ferry had been granted to Samuel Starr, and forfeited by him. "Hugh Amos and his neighbor Rockwell" are mentioned in 1678 as living near the ferry.

Amos died in 1707, leaving an estate valued at £410, consisting principally of housing and 570 acres of land. His children then living were John, Mary, wife of Benjamin Howard, Samuel (of Stonington), and Ann.

Samuel Amos in 1685 obtained a deed of land lying "between Shunk-hungannuck hill and Conaytuck brook," of the sachem Owaneco. A handsome sheet of water called Lake Amos, in the south-east part of Preston, near the line of North Stonington, probably obtained its name from him.

*Ayer.* John and Joseph Ayer, or Ayers, emigrants probably from Ipswich, Mass., settled at Preston and North Stonington as farmers.

Joseph Ayer's farm was within the bounds of Norwich, East Society, and he was admitted an inhabitant in 1704. His will, dated at Norwich, Sept. 6, 1736, but not proved till 1747, mentions four children—Joseph, Timothy, Sarah Hazen, and Abigail, wife of Dennis Manough.

*Benjamin.* Joseph Benjamin settled in Preston about 1690, and is supposed to have come from Barnstable. The inventory of his estate was

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\* The list given in this chapter of early settlers does not cover the whole of Preston. It includes only those who settled in East Society under the authority of Norwich, and others whose names have been found in connection with the town at an early date.



taken April 27, 1704. He left a widow Sarah, and children according to the inventory—"Joseph aged 30, John 22, Abigail, Jemima, Sarah, Mary and Marcy, all *about* 20." The appraisers of his estate were Thomas Stanton, Jonathan Tracy, and Samuel Lennerson, who were doubtless his neighbors."

John Benjamin died Aug. 2, 1716.

*Belcher.* William Belcher of Preston died Feb. 7, 1732. His will, dated Sept. 6, 1731, provides for wife Mehitabel, son William, and brother Elijah; also his mother and sister. His estate was valued at £2,298. Among his bequests was a wood-lot to his pastor, Mr. Hezekiah Lord.

*Billings.* William Billings is supposed to have been the oldest son of William Billings of Stonington, and born in that plantation about 1665. In 1709 he is styled "Capt. William Billings of Preston." He had rights in the volunteer lands, probably derived from his father, who had fought against the Indians in Philip's war. He died in June, 1738.\* He was the father of Rev. William Billings, who graduated at Yale in 1720, settled in the ministry at Windham, and died May 20, 1733, leaving an only son William, afterward known by the same style and title as his grandfather, viz., Capt. William Billings of Preston. This last-named Capt. William died Nov. 28, 1813, in the 88th year of his age, and was buried at Poquetannock.

*Branch.* Peter Branch, probably son of John of Scituate, had his cattle-mark registered at Norwich about 1680. He died in 1713, leaving nine children, of ages from twenty-eight years down to seven. In settling the estate, it was decided that a division could not be made without prejudice to the children, and testimony to that effect was presented to the court, signed by the following persons, who were doubtless freeholders in the district at that time:

John Ames,  
Daniel Brewster,  
Caleb Forbes,  
John Freeman,  
Joseph Freeman,  
James Morgan,

Isaac Morgan,  
Ezekiel Parke,  
David Roode,  
Nathaniel Tracy,  
Thomas Tracy.

*Brown,* Tristram, adm. June 21, 1716; the birth of Samuel, son of Tristram and Mary, recorded the same year.

"*Trustram* Brown and Abigail Parke were married 28 Aug. 1722." This was probably a second marriage of the above.

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\* Joshua Hempstead of New London, in his private Diary, says that Capt. Billings of Preston and Capt. Wm. Hyde of Norwich were buried the same day, June 9, 1738. These were men of note in their respective towns.

*Cady*, Nicholas, owned a mill in Preston, and there died in 1725; supposed to have come from Killingly.

Isaac Cady died in 1730.

*Cary*, Joseph, had land granted to him in 1687, "near Capt. Standish's farm."

*Clark*. John Clark, carpenter, adm. 1702; died 1709, leaving a wife, Mary, and children, John, Thomas, Mary, Phebe, Isaac, and James,—all, or most of them, of mature age.

Isaac, adm. 1714; selectman 1723.

James Clark of Norwich died 1719.

*Cook*, Richard. A deed of gift, dated July 21, 1680, is recorded, from Greenfield Larrabee to Richard Cooke of Stonington, of thirty acres of land "over Showtuckett, where my now dwelling is, provided he removes and dwells upon it." Richard Cooke accepted the conditions, was afterward admitted an inhabitant, and had other lands granted by the town. He died in 1695. His son Obed, born Feb. 1, 1681, was the father of Capt. James Cook of Preston, who died June 9, 1778, in the 62d year of his age.

Eliphal, one of the daughters of Capt. Cook, married Oliver Woodworth, and died Jan. 25, 1842, aged 92, making but four generations from the settlement.

*Corning*. This name is found early in the East Society. Josiah and Nehemiah Corning were born, the former in 1703, and the latter in 1716. Both are interred in the Long Society burial-ground.

*Danforth*, Thomas, a land-owner in 1730, perhaps earlier.

*Davison*. Peter and Thomas Davison were early inhabitants of the East Society, or Preston. They probably came from Stonington. Peter died in 1706; Thomas in 1724; and a second Thomas in 1741.

*Downer*, Jonathan, adm. 1716.

Samuel, adm. 1721.

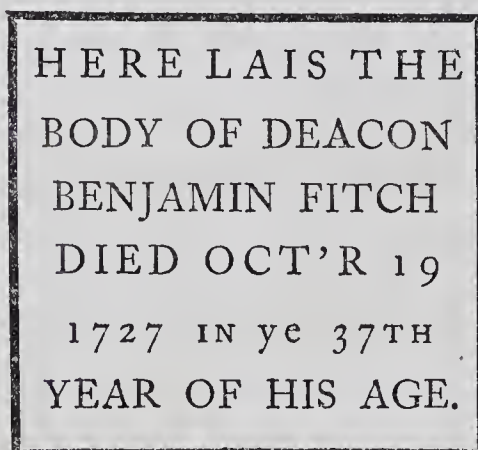
Andrew, a resident in 1723. Dr. Joshua Downer of Preston, born Aug. 6, 1735, was a son of Andrew.

*Downs*. John Downs and Hannah Rockwell were married March 1, 1693-4. They had five children baptized by Mr. Woodward in 1707.

Joshua Downs of Norwich and Mercy Raymond of New London were married Feb. 12, 1729-30.



*Fitch.* Mr. Samuel Fitch, son of the Rev. James, was one of the earliest inhabitants east of the Shetucket. He died in 1725. His sons were Hezekiah, Jabez, and Benjamin. The following inscription is from one of the oldest grave-stones in Long Society:



*Forbes.* Caleb Forbes had a land grant in 1672, and was constable on the east side in 1685. His marriage with Sarah, daughter of John Gager, took place June 30, 1681. A deed from Owaneco, in his favor, of 110 acres of upland and meadow "south of Connoughtug brook," bears the date of Dec. 10, 1683.

Deacon Caleb Forbes of Preston died Aug. 25, 1710. His estate was estimated at £625. He left a relict, Mary, and five children, Sarah, Caleb, Mary, John, and Elizabeth.

*Francis,* David, adm. 1697. He was on the roll of inhabitants in 1702, and again in 1718, with the title of *Sergeant*.

*Freeman,* Joseph, of Preston, 1698.

Sergeant Joseph Freeman's inventory was presented at the county court in 1706, and distribution of his estate ordered to his three sons, John, Ebenezer, and James.

*Gates,* Stephen, an inhabitant of Preston in 1720.

Thomas Gates died Oct. 24, 1726.

*Geer.* The farm of George Geer was near the dividing line between New London and Norwich, east of the river, and was afterward included in Groton. He married in 1659, Sarah, daughter of John Allyn. His sons, Joseph and Jonathan, were reckoned as inhabitants of Preston in 1687.

*Giddings,* Nathaniel, son of Nathaniel, born 1705; daughter Elizabeth baptized Sept. 19, 1715.

*Glover.* John Glover, a grantee of 1680, is on the roll of inhabitants in 1702 and 1718. He married May 29, 1682, Hannah ———, the family name not given.

March, 1684. "Granted to Mr. Brewster and John Glover, two bits of land, near their own land, on the east side of Showtucket river."

*Haskell,* Dyer, adm. Dec. 1, 1713.

Roger, adm. 1716; Daniel, 1723.

Roger and Daniel Haskell were brothers. The former died in 1727. The decease of Daniel and two sisters, Judith and Sarah, took place during the year 1730. Daniel left an estate of £850. In the last will and testament of Judith, several of the bequests are suggestive of the fashions of the day. "I give to brother Roger's daughter Zipporah, my Bible, my silk apron and pinnars, and two ribbons. I give to brother Fitch's daughter Abigail my chinee frock and stays with green covering," &c.

A second Roger Haskell, who died in 1759, aged 67, and a third of the same name in 1791, have stones to their memory in the Long Society burial-ground.

*Hewit.* John Hewit, member of Norwich church in 1726, had a son Solomon baptized March 30, 1729.

*Hillard,* Joseph, 1738.

*Larrabee,* Greenfield, from Saybrook, son of an original emigrant of the same name, married Alice, daughter of Thomas Parke, in March, 1673, and settled upon a farm east of the river, near his father-in-law. In this new location he prospered, acquired large lands, brought up a family of eight sons and daughters, and lived to be upwards of 90 years of age. He was born April 20, 1648, and died Feb. 3, 1739.

*Mainer,* Zachariah, 1722.

*Mix, or Meeks.* Thomas Meeks, son of Thomas of New Haven, and there born in 1635, married June 30, 1677, Hannah, daughter of Rev. James Fitch. He settled upon a farm belonging to Mr. Fitch, east of the Shetucket. A tract of twenty acres, "where his house stands," was confirmed to him July 16, 1680, as a free gift from Mr. Fitch to his daughter. They had nine children.

Mr. Mix died July 30, 1706. His son Daniel was a selectman in 1725 and 1726.

*Morgan,* Joseph, of Preston, son of James of New London and Groton, married Dorothy, daughter of Thomas Parke, "sometime in April, 1670," says the record. He died April 5, 1704. He had one son, Joseph, and six daughters, who lived to maturity. Estate, £522.



*Parish*, Samuel, adm. 1716; Benjamin, a little later: probably sons of John of Stonington, who died in 1715.

*Parke*, or *Parks*. The farm of Thomas Parke was so ambiguously situated that it took a course of years to get it settled into an abiding position. In 1681 he was a collector of taxes for New London, and his son, Thomas Parke, Jr., a constable of the same town. In 1686, the latter, without any removal of residence, was chosen constable for Norwich. A year later they were both included in the new town of Preston. Deacon Thomas Parke died July 30, 1709; his son, Thomas Jr., had previously deceased.

Robert Parke, second son of Deacon Thomas, married Rachel Leffingwell, Nov. 24, 1681. He also died before his father, (1707,) leaving a second wife, Mary, and ten children between the ages of nine months and twenty-three years. Robert Parke's homestead farm was within the bounds of Groton; he had also a farm at Pachaug.

Capt. John Parke of Preston, another son of Deacon Thomas, and probably the oldest, died in 1716. In the division of the estate, the widow Mary received that part of the farm "on which old deacon Thomas dwelt by the Great Pond." She afterward married Salmon Treat.

Nathaniel Parks in 1683, was a neighbor of Josiah Rockwell.

*Richards*. In 1713, Deacon John Richards of Preston asked for a confirmation of his land. William Richards, probably a brother of John, was also an early inhabitant of Preston. No connection between them and the Richards family of New London has been traced. William died in 1724; John in 1756. Both left descendants.

*Roath*. Robert Roath married in October, 1668, Sarah Saxton, and in 1672 was living at Norwich, near the Shetucket ferry. In 1680 the road to Poquetannock was laid out, beginning at the house of Robert Roath, and running south through land of Owen Williams. Robert Roath had three sons, John, Daniel, and Peter, who all became heads of families.

*Robinson*. Peter Robinson came from Martha's Vineyard about 1708; adm. 1712; had three children baptized by Mr. Woodward, (1711, 1713, 1714,) all daughters; removed to Windham, probably about 1720, and was one who assisted in forming the church in Scotland parish, 1735.

Israel Robinson was a resident of Norwich in 1720.

*Rockwell*. Josiah Rockwell settled at Norwich about 1670, and was slain by the Indians in January, 1676. His farm was on the eastern side of the Shetucket, near the road to Poquetannock.

The parentage of Josiah Rockwell has not been determined by actual records, but presumptive evidence connects him with the family of William

Rockwell who died at Windsor in 1640. Though only three sons of William are found on record at Windsor, viz., John, Samuel, and Joseph, it is not improbable that Josiah was an older son by a previous marriage. He was at New London in 1658, and remained there ten or twelve years. He then removed to Norwich, where one of William Rockwell's family—Ruth, wife of Christopher Huntington—had settled. Among his children we find the names of the three brothers of Windsor, Joseph, John, and Samuel, perpetuated; and in the family of Samuel, at Windsor, we find a Josiah. These are hints suggestive of a relationship.

Josiah Rockwell had seven children, the births ranging from 1658 to 1676, inclusive. The oldest died in infancy. His marriage is not recorded, and the name of his wife has not been traced.

*Rood.* John, son of Thomas and Sarah Rood of Norwich, had a home-lot granted him in 1679, "on the other side of Showtucket river, near to his uncle Leffingwell's." He died in September, 1706, leaving a wife, Mary, and six children,—the oldest, John, aged 16, and the second, Zachariah, aged 14. The last mentioned was probably the venerable centenarian whose grave-stone in the Preston burial-ground has the following interesting record:

In Memory of  
Mr. Zachariah Rude  
who died Feb. 10th  
1795.  
in the 103d year  
of his age.

Here in the history of my age,  
Men who review my days,  
May read God's love in every page,  
In every line his praise.

*Rose.* Thomas Rose was an early settler in the southern part of Preston. His name acquired notoriety from the situation of his dwelling-house. A large oak-tree near the house was a noted boundary-mark between Norwich and New London, standing as a stately warder precisely at the south-east corner of Norwich. It was directly upon the line running east from the head of Poquetannock Cove to the bounds of Stonington, and is referred to in several surveys, acts, and patents.

Thomas Rose married Hannah, daughter of Robert Allyn. Under the shadow of the great boundary-tree they both lived to a good old age. He died in 1743, leaving an estate valued at £2,498. His wife survived him, and he left also a son Joseph, and six daughters. Another son, Thomas, died before his father, in 1733, leaving a family.



*Rudd.* Jonathan and Mercy Rudd were married Dec. 19, 1678, and probably settled in Norwich about that time. His land east of the Shetucket was held by a deed of purchase from Owaneco, dated Dec. 10, 1683, and consisted of 100 acres on Connoughtug brook, and 108 acres betwixt Shunkhungannock hill and Norwich bounds. He appears also to have had other lands.

He died in 1689. In the distribution of his estate, his wife received £60; the oldest son, Jonathan, £117; Nathaniel and Abigail, each £58, 10s. "At the desire of the widow, Joseph and Richard Bushnell, Nathaniel Rudd, Thomas Tracy and Caleb Forbes were appointed overseers of the widow, children and estate."

*Spicer.* The first Peter Spicer was of New London in 1666, and died in 1695. The second Peter was of Norwich in 1702 and 1716. Samuel, adm. Dec. 20, 1715.

*Standish.* Josiah (or Josias) Standish was a son of the renowned Miles Standish of Duxbury. His first wife, Mary, "dyed and was buried at Duxborough July 1, 1665."\* His second wife is supposed to have been Sarah, daughter of Samuel Allen of Braintree.† The earliest notice we obtain of him in this neighborhood is from a deed of sale dated Feb. 5, 1686, from "John Parks of the new plantation, east of Norwich," (Preston,) to "Capt. Josiah Standish now in Norwich," of 150 acres of land "over Showtucket river upon the hill between Mr. Fitch's farm and Pocketannuck,"—consideration, £22. Witnesses, Thomas Bradford and Simon Huntington, Jr. The same year he purchased a thousand-acre right in Windham, near where Willimantic now stands.

Capt. Standish died in 1690. The widow and son Miles were appointed administrators on his estate. We may assume that Samuel Standish, licensed to tan leather in Preston, 1706, Israel Standish of Preston, 1709, Josiah, who went from Preston, and was one of the first settlers of Stafford, 1719, and Lois, who married Hugh Calkins in 1706, were children of Capt. Josiah.

Miles Standish of Preston died in 1728; left relict Elizabeth; estate appraised at £919.11.3.

In his inventory are articles that harmonize well with his name,—viz., gun, sword, belt, pouch, and bullets; a Bible and Confession of Faith.

*Starkweather.* John Starkweather was an early inhabitant. He died Aug. 21, 1703, leaving a widow and seven children between the ages of 12 and 26 years.

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\* Hist. and Gen. Reg., 8, 192.

† Ibid., 10, 225.

*Tyler.* Hopestill Tyler, "an aged man, died in 1733. He left a wife, Mary, and four children, viz., Hannah Buswell, Daniel, James, and Hopestill. Estate, £813. In the inventory of his wardrobe is "a close bodied coat," valued at £4, 5s., a beaver hat, an orange-colored cloak, and a muff.

*Wedge, Thomas.* Deborah, relict of Thomas Wedge, died in 1703, leaving seven children, viz., John, Mary, Joshua, Isaac, Deborah, David, and Deliverance. John Richards and John Tracy witnessed her will.

Joshua was on the roll of Norwich inhabitants in 1716.

*Wentworth.* Paul Wentworth, a son of Elder William Wentworth of Dover, N. H., obtained from Owaneco, the Indian sachem, a lease of certain lands in Mohegan, to which he removed with his family. He was dismissed, with his wife Katherine, from the church at Rowley, where he had lived, to the church at New London, June 29, 1707. But his name does not appear on the list of church-members at New London. His farm, though within the limits of the ecclesiastical parish, was at least ten miles from the church, and the intervening country was almost a wilderness. He afterward purchased lands of David Francis, in East Society, Norwich; removed thither and was accepted as an inhabitant of the town Dec. 20, 1715. He had thirteen children, all born before he came to this colony, the dates ranging from 1680 to 1700. He died in 1750.

Benjamin, his seventh son, married in 1726, Mehitable Carrier. Jared Wentworth, son of Benjamin and Mehitable, born in 1728, married Abigail Wilson of Ashford. The residence of this couple was in the western part of Norwich, near Bean Hill. One of their daughters, Zerviah, born April 12, 1767, was united Nov. 28, 1790, to Ezekiel Huntley. The only child of this union, Mrs. L. H. Sigourney, has acquired a literary fame second to that of no female in the country. Her numerous writings, in prose and verse, are all of a pure and elevated tone, calculated to charm, console and entertain all willing readers, and particularly to mould and invigorate the character of the young.

*Williams.* Several of this name settled at an early date east of the river.

Owen Williams is mentioned in 1669. He obtained a grant of land in 1670, "near Brewster's in the path that goes from Showtuck to Pocketanuck." He died in 1680, leaving a family.

Joseph Williams, adm. 1702, and a vote passed that he be "entered as a whole share man respecting lands."

John Williams, apparently an original emigrant, not connected with others of the name in this neighborhood, appears early in the next century among the inhabitants. According to family traditions, he came from



Wales, and was born in 1680. His first wife was Hannah Knowlton.\* His residence was at Poquetannock village, but within the bounds of Norwich, as is evident from his serving repeatedly as one of the selectmen of the town, in 1721, 1728, and afterward. He died early in the year 1742, leaving a widow Mary. His will provides for his only son Joseph, and sons-in-law, Nathaniel Giddings and James Geer. His estate comprised the homestead farm, a grist-mill, fulling-mill, a wharf and two warehouses at the Landing. Among his personal effects were five negroes, valued at £600. Total estate, £21,727.

The following is a cotemporary notice of his death, Jan. 12, 1741-2:

"Capt. John Williams died at Poekatonnoek of pleurisy after 7 days illness. He was a good commonwealth's man, traded much by sea and land with good success for many years, and acquired wholly by his own industry a great estate. He was a very just dealer aged about 60 years."†

Brig. Gen. Joseph Williams of Norwich, one of the purchasers of the Connecticut Reserve, was a grandson of Capt. John. He died Oct. 3, 1800, aged 47.

*Witter*, Ebenezer, of Preston; died Jan. 31, 1711-12. He left a wife, Dorothy, and seven children, Joseph, Ebenezer, William, Elizabeth, Mary, Dorothy, Hannah. Estate, £729.

*Woodward*, Daniel, of Preston, died in 1713; left wife Elizabeth, and twelve children from eleven to thirty-three years of age. Daniel Woodward, Jr., administered on the estate.

In 1718 the proprietors of Norwich east of the Shetucket were enumerated. The list includes only property-holders, who were voters and paid rates to the ministry.

Benjamin Brewster.

Jonathan Brewster.

John Clark.

Obed Cook.

John Downs.

Mr. Samuel Fitch.

David Franeis.

John Glover.

Matthew Huntington.

Andrew Huntington.

Greenfield Larrabee.

Nathaniel Larrabee.

John Larrabee.

Daniel Leffingwell.

Nathaniel Leffingwell.

Daniel Mix.

James Mix.

Daniel Roath.

John Rockwell.

Joseph Rockwell.

Josiah Rockwell.

Samuel Roekwell.

John Williams.

Joseph Williams.

\* History of the Williams Family, p. 322.

† MS. Diary of Joshua Hempstead.

To these were added :

Mr. Worthington if he settle there.

Isaac Huntington in right of Matthew Coy.

And three half-share men, Hezekiah, Benjamin and Jabez Fitch.

Preston, as an independent town, begins with the beginning of the year 1687. The petition of the inhabitants to the Legislature for incorporation was in October, 1686, and signed by Thomas Parke, Sen., Thomas Parke Jun., Thomas and Jonathan Tracy, Hugh Amos, Jonathan Rudd, Caleb Forbes, John Amos, John Rude, Peter Branch, Joseph Morgan, Thomas Rose, Daniel Brewster, Nathaniel and John Parke, Charles Williams, Jonathan Gere, Edward Litell, and James Smith,—19 persons.\*

At a special Court the next January, the petition was granted and the bounds stated. Its limits extended over what is now the southern part of Griswold, but the claim of Norwich east of the river was respected, and no part of Long Society included in the new town.

The Plantation Act is recorded at Preston, signed by Robert Treat, Governor, and dated Jan. 15, 1686.† In this instrument fifteen persons are named, comprising the largest landholders, but several of them were not actual inhabitants.

Hugh Amos.	Thomas Parke.
John Avery.	John Plumbe.
Thomas Avery.	Thomas Rose.
Benjamin Brewster.	Jonathan Rudd.
Caleb Forbes.	John Stanton.
Capt. Samuel Mason.	Jonathan Tracy.
Ephraim Miner.	Thomas Tracy.
John Parke.	

The whole number of those who were embodied in the plantation, and agreed to assist in supporting a minister, was 31. Jonathan Tracy was the first Recorder.

A quit-claim and confirmatory deed was obtained March 17, 1687, from the Mohegan sachem, of the new township, comprising a tract five

\* Conn. Col. Rec., 3, 220.

† There is probably an error of a few days in this date. The Special Court met to confirm the grant and state the bounds, Jan. 26.

See Conn. Col. Rec., 3, 222.



miles in length between Stonington and Norwich. It purports to be from

“Oaneco to Capt. James Fitch, Capt. Josiah Standish, Thomas Parke, Sen., Jonathan Trasy, Thomas Trasy, Joseph Morgan, and all the rest of the inhabitants living in *New Preson*.”

Signed.

The mark




of OANACO.

Witnesses:

JOHN MORGAN.

JOHN STANTON.

The mark  of JOHN UNCAS.

The following instrument, signed by Owaneco, is dated Dec. 22, 1680:

Whereas at a General Court in Hartford May 13, 1680, my father Uncas had liberty to dispose unto me his land upon Quinnabaug river and the Court at the same time granting me liberty to dispose of it unto gentlemen among them, as I should see cause to do, and a good part thereof I have disposed of already, but finding that some through their great importunity and others taking advantage of me when I am in drink, by causing me to sign deeds, not only wronging myself, but may spoil it ever being a plantation—for these and other reasons I make over all my right and title of any and of all my lands and meadows unto my loving friend James Fitch Jr. for him to dispose of as he shall see cause.

## CHAPTER XV.

### NEWENT, OR BETWEEN THE RIVERS, NOW LISBON.

THE large tract of land lying between the crotch of the rivers Shetucket and Quinebaug, was acknowledged by the English to be a part of the Mohegan territory. At an early period it was inhabited by a band of Indians tributary to Uncas, called by the first settlers Showtuckets. The town of Norwich claimed this land as belonging to their commons.

Feb. 25, 1669.

"The towne having seriously taken into their consideration the condition of Awaneco, the Sachem, being in hazard of the loss of his Sachemship for want of land to accommodate his subjects, for his reliefe herein the towne have seen cause to give unto the said Awaneco a parcell of land. Thomas Tracy, Thomas Leffingwell and John Post are to lay out to him 200 or 300 acres at their discretion near Showtucket river, and abutting southerly on Queenapaug river, secured also to his heirs and successors but not in their power to alienate any part of it."

To this grant certain regulations were attached in regard to fencing and keeping cattle and swine. Notice was also given that all trespassing upon the inhabitants of Norwich must be satisfied according to English law, and the act concludes in this manner:

"It is further engaged by Oweneco, that whereas as he hath received these lands by gift from the town of Norwich, the town does order that he shall forbear on the Sabbath day from working, hunting, fishing, or any servile labor, and if any of his subjects be found guilty of this violation, they shall be liable to be punished, and to these said, and above specified particulars, the said Oweneco doth bind and engage himself, his heirs and lawful successors."

Consented to and subscribed by Owaneco, March 22, 1669.

Mark of



OWENNEKO.

Witnesses:

JAMES FITCH,

JOHN MASON, JR.



On this grant the sachem gathered his special clan, probably some twenty or thirty families. An annual tribute of ten deer-skins was at first demanded of them, but the scarcity of deer in the vicinity rendered that regulation a dead letter. Moreover the village was soon broken up by the war with Philip, which called the sachem and his warriors to the field, and scattered the women and children among their neighbors.

When the conflict was over, a part of this tract was assigned to the Indian fugitives, called Surrenderers, and in May, 1678, Mr. Fitch reported to the government that twenty-nine families of this class had settled upon it under the supervision of the English.

By a deed of trust, Dec. 22, 1680, Owaneco assigned to James Fitch, Jr., the care and disposition of all his lands on Quinebaug river. A few years later, absolute deeds of sale of these and other tracts of land were executed by the sachem in favor of the same Capt. Fitch.

In 1695, Owaneco and Capt. Samuel Mason, who, by his own choice and the authority of the government, had been appointed his trustee, requested that a committee of the town should be empowered to survey the 300 acre grant and fix its bounds.

The next year, Capt. Fitch, being then proprietary clerk, recorded the whole grant to himself, as included in the large purchases he had made of Owaneco in 1684 and 1687. The town entered a formal protest against the claims of Capt. Fitch, particularly to the 300 acres at Quinebaug Falls, which had been guarantied to the Indians with a proviso that it should not be alienated.

The course of Capt. Fitch in regard to these Indian purchases was distasteful to the town, and no clear account can be given of the basis upon which the difficulty was settled. Apparently the town, after some murmuring, acquiesced in the claim of Capt. Fitch to what was called the 1800 acre grant.

Capt. Fitch sold this grant in 1694 and '95, to certain purchasers from Ipswich, Mass., viz., Joseph Safford, Richard Smith, Meshach Farley, Matthew Perkins, and Samuel Bishop.

Joseph and Jacob Perkins, also of Ipswich, purchased a tract between the rivers in 1695, of John Fitch, and subsequently bought also a part of the 1800 acre grant from the former purchasers.

Settlements were immediately commenced, and in 1718, sixteen persons on the roll of accepted inhabitants were characterized as

Farmers in ye Croteh of ye Rivers.

Samuel Bishop.  
Samuel Coy.  
Eleazer Jewett.  
David Knight.  
Daniel Longbottom.

Samuel Lothrop.  
Jabez Perkins.  
Joseph Perkins.  
Josiah Read.  
Josiah Read, Jr.

Joseph Read.  
John Read.  
William Read.

Samuel Rood.  
Samuel Rood, Jun.  
Henry Wallbridge.

Samuel and John Bishop were early settlers in this district. They were probably brothers and sons or grandsons of Thomas Bishop of Ipswich. Samuel married in 1706, Sarah Forbes. John, in 1718, married Mary Bingham. Samuel was adm. 1702, and John in 1710.

Matthew Coy obtained a grant of land east of the Shetucket in 1685. His cattle-mark was registered still earlier. He was probably that Matthew Coy (son of Matthew) whose birth was recorded at Boston Sept. 5, 1656.

Samuel Coy of Newent may have been a brother or a son of Matthew, but no such connection has been traced. He had a son Abraham baptized in 1719.

Eleazer Jewett, Dec. 5, 1698, purchased of Messrs. Waterman and Bushnell, agents of the town, 75 acres of land near the Shetucket river. He is supposed to have come from Rowley, Mass. His son, the second Eleazer Jewett, died in 1747, at which time the father was still living. The third of the name was the founder of Jewett City village.

David Knight married, March 17, 1691-2, Sarah Backus. Land was granted him in 1700, for repairing the meeting-house and school-house. He died in 1744.

Daniel Longbottom was an inhabitant in 1698, and was chosen one of the surveyors in 1702. Himself, wife and six children were baptized by Mr. Woodward in September, 1718. He died in 1729.

Jabez and Joseph Perkins, adm. 1701, were sons of Jacob Perkins of Ipswich, and commenced their agricultural improvements between the rivers in 1695, holding their land in common until 1720, when it was equally divided between them. Joseph died in 1726, and Jabez in 1742. They left large estates and thriving families.

Josiah Read has been already noticed as one of the original proprietors of Norwich. His four sons are here enumerated with him as independent land-owners and accepted inhabitants.

Samuel Rood was the son of Thomas and Sarah Rood, and born in 1666. In 1687 he became a householder, having his residence "below Showtuckett Falls."

Henry Wallbridge was an accepted inhabitant in 1702. William is mentioned in 1719; Amos in 1721.



Richard Adams, though not on the list of 1718, was an early proprietor between the rivers. He probably came from Sudbury, and may have been the soldier of that name who was wounded in the great swamp fight with the Narragansetts, Dec. 19, 1675. His wife, Rebecca, was received into full communion by Mr. Woodward in 1708, and three of his children baptized. He died Aug. 24, 1728. His will mentions ten children, among whom were four married daughters, Hannah Bacon, Mary Baldwin, Abigail Brown, and Rebecca Haggitt.

William Adams, perhaps brother of Richard, died in 1727. Eliashib Adams, of Preston, died May 15, 1733.

John Safford is mentioned as an inhabitant of Norwich in 1698. John, Joseph and Solomon of the next generation were probably his sons.

John Lambert was an early resident in Newent Society. He died July 30, 1727.

Another name found in this society at an early period is that of Burnham. Eleazar Burnham was recognized as an inhabitant in 1703. He was probably the son of Thomas, and born at Ipswich in September, 1678. He married Lydia Waterman, Nov. 20, 1708, and died in 1743.

James Burnham, admitted as an inhabitant in 1710, married, in 1728, Elizabeth Hough, and died May 22, 1757.

Aaron Burnham, a seaman, first mentioned in 1718; cattle-mark enrolled in 1720; died Aug. 18, 1727. His will was proved at Ipswich, Oct. 9 of that year. His wife was the sole legatee.

Benjamin Burnham, adm. 1726, married April 20, 1727, Mary Kinsman. He died Oct. 15, 1737.

These four persons came from Ipswich before 1720. The Kinsmans, Palmers and Stevenses were later emigrants, probably from the same place. The Lovetts came from Beverly; the Rathbuns from Block Island; and Thomas Crosby from Barnstable.\*

Robert Kinsman was admitted an inhabitant Dec. 5, 1721. He was one of the selectmen in 1725 and 1728.

The settlement of Newent was for many years obstructed by the diversity of claims arising from a confusion of grants and conveyances. In 1723 a committee was appointed "to enquire into and gain as good an understanding as they can come at respecting the Indians land in the Crotch of Quinebaug and Showtucket rivers."†

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\* Half-Century Sermon of Rev. Levi Nelson of Lisbon, 1854.

† After this Indian reservation had been entirely cleared of native occupants, one of the English owners found at a certain time an old Indian woman, who had come from a distance, barking his birch trees and otherwise trespassing upon his grounds; and

In 1725, the proprietors of the common and undivided land put an end to all controversy by giving a quit-claim deed to Capt. Jabez Perkins, Lt. Samuel Bishop, Mr. Joseph Perkins, and Mr. John Safford, of all the Indian land in the crotch of the rivers, and of all contained in Major Fitch's 1800 acre grant, for the sum of £75, money in hand, paid to said proprietors, provided that the Indians should be allowed to remain and occupy the tract that had been secured to them. To these purchasers and to those who should claim under them, the town confirmed the title of reversion. The Indians dwindled away, and in 1745 the descendants of Owaneco and other principal Mohegans, for the sum of £137, executed a quit-claim deed of the Indian reservation in favor of the English claimants. This instrument, which extinguished the last aboriginal claim to land in the nine-miles-square, was in substance as follows :

Ann alias Cutoih, Betty Aucum widow, Wedemow daughter of Mahomet deceased, Ann, otherwise young Ben's wife, all of whom are descendants of Owaneco, late sachem of Mohegan, and the said young Ben or Ben Uncas Jr. and Daniel Pauganeek, all of Mohegan, for the consideration of 137 pounds in bills of credit—to Capt. Samuel Bishop, Joseph Perkins, Jacob Perkins, John Safford, Joseph Safford and Solomon Safford, to all of them in proportion as they now possess—do now relinquish all right and title to the tract of 300 aeres more or less in Newent, in the crotch of the rivers Quinebaug and Showtucket, called the Indian Land, abutting southeasterly on the Quinebaug.—April 9, 1745.\*

Witnesses, ISAAC HUNTINGTON.  
ASA WORTHINGTON.

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upon remonstrating with her, was met with a fiery and indignant rejoinder. "This land yours!" she exclaimed. "How you get it? Indian land, all of it,—you white folks come here,—drive away poor Indian and steal his land,—that the way you get it!"

This no doubt expresses, in a homely way, the feeling of many of the aborigines, as from time to time they have relinquished their ancient seats to the whites, and retired into the wilderness.

\* Norwieh Deeds.



## CHAPTER XVI.

### MOHEGANS AND THEIR SACHEMS. MASON CONTROVERSY.

It is a singular fact that while the Indian Sachems were conveying to the English large tracts of land, they were at the same time complaining of want of room for their own accommodation. The habits of the race made a large extent of territory necessary for their subsistence. They must have a different haunt for every varying season; forests for hunting, thickets where they could procure materials for mats, baskets, brooms, pails, bowls, and all the varieties of their rude manufacture, as well as corn-fields, and stations upon the sea-shore and river banks for fishing. In a general form they had ceded all their inheritance to the English, except the tract upon the river between Norwich and New London, where Uncas had his royal residence; and here the fresh settlers were crowding upon them, and constraining them to adopt agricultural occupations and fixed habitations very repugnant to their roving habits.

More than thirty deeds are recorded in the Norwich books, bearing the signatures of Uncas, Owaneco, or Joshua, conveying to various individuals tracts of land, most of them comprising hundreds of acres. Similar deeds are on record at New London. Often these Indian grants overlapped and covered others, leading to many disputes as to titles, and perplexities as to bounds, which entangled the rights and claims of the settlers in an inextricable maze. One is almost inclined to join in the declaration of Sir Edmund Andross, that he did not value an Indian deed any more than *the scratch of a cat's paw*.

The following record shows that an amicable settlement of all differences with respect to land claims and boundaries took place between the town and the aged chieftain of the Mohegans:

Whereas Uncas, Sachem of Mohegan, hath of late made application to the Town of Norwich for some Reliefe with Reference to a small Tract of Land which fell out to be within the bounds of the Town, on the south Bounds, over the Traiding Cove Brook. This Town, Considering of his Request, and of him as an OLD FRIEND, *see Cause to Gratify him* with the said Land as a Gift to him and his heirs forever, and Whereas the s<sup>d</sup> Uncas doth also Recon upon three pounds yet due to him as arrears of the payment of the purchas of Norwich Township, though there is nothing appearing how the said money is due, neither by written nor any other Evidence—Yet notwithstanding the

Town have Granted his desire as not willing to dissatisfie an OLD FRIEND in such a small matter, and the said Uncas Also Declaring himself to be in some fears Respecting his Posterity, whether they may not be infringed of their Liberty of Fishing and making use of the Rivers and other Royalties by some English: that being the Reason why he Gave place at the first that we should run the line of the Two miles on the East side of the Great River, Beginning at the River: We also satisfie him in this writing about it, that he and his suecessors shall from Time to Time, and at all times have full and free Liberty to make use of the Rivers and ponds, with other Royalties as abovesaid, not debaring Ourselves, and having thus done, we whose names are subscribed being appointed by the town of Norwich to treat with him the said Uneas upon the premises, or any thing Ellee that might Conduce to mutual satisfaction, we asked him whether now he was fully satisfied as to the former, so Concerning any thing Ellee depending between him and us, and he hath declared himself: as witness by his hand that he is FULLY SATISFIED with us concerning the premises, so Respecting all our Bounds and boundaries, and particuarly Concerning the Running of the Line on the East side of the River, and Concerning the beginning of the said Line at the River, and the end of said Line to a Tree marked near the Dwellinghouse of Robert Allen: Dated in Norwich, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1682:

The mark  of UNCAS.

Thomas Leffingwell.	}	Entered in Lib <sup>r</sup> the second folio 1 <sup>st</sup> , October 18 <sup>th</sup> , 1682.
William Backus.		
John Birchard.		
John Traey.		

By me, CHRISTOPHER HUNTINGTON, Reeorder.

The exact period of the decease of Uncas has not been ascertained. It is supposed to have occurred in the fall of 1683. The latest notice of him that has been discovered is the acknowledgment of a deed before Samuel Mason in June, 1683, According to tradition, the last two or three years of his life were mostly dozed away, half stupid in his wigwam. It was very common for old Indians to wear out in that way, becoming physically inert, sinking into indifference, and dying as it were for want of thought. An active mind undoubtedly assists largely in keeping the vital powers in motion. It is said that the English in passing through Mohegan, between Norwich and New London, would often turn aside to the royal wigwam of Uncas, in order to pay the chief a visit, and in these latter years of his life were wont to find him sitting at the door on a rude bench, sleeping in the sun; sometimes with his head lolling on his breast, and sometimes bent forward upon his hands, leaning on a staff. It was difficult to rouse him any further than to elicit the guttural *ugk!* *waugh!* or perhaps a listless *Hosh-ah-me?* How do you do? or, *Ty-an-noh?* How do you feel?

All accounts, Indian and English, agree that he was brought to Norwich and interred in a spot previously known as the burial-place of the Indian sachems. This spot, though not reserved for the Indians in the deed of



the town, nor made sure to them afterwards, as far as is known, by any legal instrument, has ever since been used by them as the cemetery of their royal race; and this right of sepulture has not only been conceded to them by the successive proprietors of the land, but several times expressly recognized by the town. In the first division of the common lands, April, 1661, "*the Indian Graves*" was included in the grant to Thomas Tracy; upon which the town, by way of exchange, gave him eight acres of pasture land in another place. And though the same spot was afterwards granted to Elderkin, it was stipulated that the Indians should always be allowed to pass and repass up the cove and ravine to their burying-place, and to cut wood, if they chose, half-way up the side-hill.

The following subsequent grants seem also to admit the Indian privilege:

Dec. 26, 1679. Given to Richard Bushnell a small piece of land upon ye little plaine near *the land of the Indians* where the burying place is, upon a deep valley that goeth down to goodman Elderkin's.

Granted to Samuel Tracy (1690) six acres on the Little Plain, "by the Indian burying place, abutting west on *Indian land*," and running south to the brow of the hill and John Elderkin's land.

The Plain and the land around the Falls were regarded as peculiarly *Indian land*, probably on account of the vestiges left behind of former Indian occupation. We have ventured to fix the residence of that old Indian sachem who claimed the territory before the English came to Connecticut, in this neighborhood.

The savage loves the waterfall; it diverts his loneliness. He settles in its neighborhood; its roar is his music; the smooth water below is the path for his canoe; the fish at its feet are his food. Here he lays up his winter store, and the plains above are the fields for his corn.\*

Here then, perchance, stood the wigwams of that ancient tribe, and either by them or their immediate successors, the Mohegans, this spot was set apart for the burial-place of their sachems. Here the father of Uncas, with Uncas himself, and his sons, and his grandson Cæsar, and his great-grandsons, those nominal sachems, Ben and Sam Uncas, were gathered. And in later days, from time to time, as the descendants of the old chief have melted away, the earth in this romantic cemetery has opened to receive their remains.

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\* About the year 1830, the gardener of Mr. William C. Gilman, in turning up the soil, struck upon a considerable deposit, half a peck or more, of Indian arrow-heads, not only of quartz, but flint and other hard stones not indigenous to the region. This was on the high bank of the Cove below the Falls.

On the Plain above, numerous arrow-heads have been gathered from time to time, and are still occasionally turned up by the spade or plough.

But it has probably received its latest guest, and henceforth it is a sealed tomb. The race of the Sachems is extinct. The last feeble current of its blood has ceased to flow. No one remains who has any claim to the coveted privilege of sleeping at the feet of Uncas and Owaneco.

Owaneco died in 1710. The deeds signed by him, on record in Norwich, New London, Preston, and some other towns, are numerous and of vast import; comprising large farms and small farms, towns and districts, estimated often by miles. The condition expressed is frequently of this nature: "To my very good friend John Post, for the love and friendship received from him," 200 acres in 1685; to Israel Lothrop, "for kindnesses received and three coats in hand paid," 150 acres in 1695; "to Richard Bushnell, for kind and free entertainment for many years," 400 acres in 1699.

Attawanhood, alias Joshua, the brother of Owaneco, was another noted land-grantee, but his deeds are less numerous than those of the elder chief. Titles in Colchester, Lebanon and Windham are in most instances derived from Joshua Uncas, who was considered rather as a river chief, his principal haunts lying towards the Connecticut.

The signatures or totems of these three sachems, affixed to the various deeds executed by them, display as much uniformity as is usually found in common hand-writing at different periods. The signatures of the deed of Norwich present a fair sample of each. Uncas in that instance drew only the arms and body of a man, with a stroke to represent, perhaps, the heart. He seems always to have subscribed the rude outline of a human figure, or the prominent parts of it. The totem of Owaneco is supposed to represent a turkey. The head is turned to the right. Joshua's sign-manual is a slender four-legged animal, with a conspicuous tail, and the head to the left. It might be taken for a fox, rabbit, or woodchuck, but in all probability was designed by the sachem to represent the familiar chipmuck, or striped squirrel.

Notwithstanding the title of Sachem, and the lordly idea attached to the disposing of such extensive regions as they were accustomed to convey to their friends, these chieftains were but little elevated, either in their habits or morals, above the common level of savages. Owaneco was in his youth a bold warrior, and an enterprising partizan. His exploits at the Narragansett fort fight, and through the whole of Philip's war, obtained for him considerable renown.

But in maturer years, destitute of the stimulus of war and the chase, he used to wander about with his blanket, metomp and sandals, his gun and his squaw, to beg in the neighboring towns, quartering himself in the kitchens and out-houses of his white acquaintances, and presenting to strangers, or those who could not well understand his imperfect English, a *brief* which had been written for him by Mr. Richard Bushnell.



It was as follows :

Oneco king, his queen doth bring,  
To beg a little food ;  
As they go along, their friends among,  
To try how kind, how good.

Some pork, some beef, for their relief,  
And if you can't spare bread,  
She'll thank you for pudding, as they go a gooding,  
And carry it on her head.

The last line alludes to the Indian custom of bearing burdens in a sack upon the shoulders, supported by a bark strap called a *metomp*, passing across the forehead.

After the death of Joshua, his son and heir, Abimilech Joshuason, claimed the greater part of what is now Lebanon. In 1693, he gave a power of attorney to Major James Fitch and Lieut. Thomas Leffingwell, to settle the bounds between his land and the towns of Norwich and Windham. Toward the latter he claimed that the Willimantic river was the true boundary.

In 1716, Cæsar, who is styled "the Prince and Sachem of Mohegan," made several conveyances of land to individuals. One was to Capt. Robert Denison ; another to Lieut. Benajah Bushnell, of two parcels, lying between Trading Cove brook and the south line of Norwich.

Denison's purchase lay "northward of Norwich purchase line and south of the bounds granted by the town to ye Mohegan Sachem." The title was allowed by the town, and all claim to the land released in 1720.

Cæsar was the youngest son of Owaneco, and died in December, 1722. He was succeeded by Ben Uncas, usually called Major Ben, a descendant of Uncas by an inferior wife. The exact date of the decease of Major Ben is ascertained from a private diary kept at New London.

Feb. 11, 1725. Ben Uncas, the king of the Mohegans, died yesterday.

His son and successor, Ben Uncas 2d, had been brought up in the family of Capt. John Mason, and was the first of the sachems who discarded the old Indian customs, and adopted the dress and modes of living current among his neighbors, the English residents. He married Ann Mazzeen, a grand-daughter of Uncas in the female line.

## MASON CONTROVERSY.

It seems to have been generally conceded by the English, that the ulterior right to dispose of land in this region belonged to Uncas. The Governor and Company, however, claimed that he transferred this right to them by a deed of Sept. 28, 1640. They asserted, moreover, that he had confirmed and ratified the surrender at a subsequent period through the agency of Capt. Mason.

In 1659, before the settlement of Norwich, Mason had obtained of Uncas and his brother a general deed of all the lands belonging to them, not then actually occupied by the tribe. In this business, it was generally understood that he acted as the agent of the colony, and it was proved by the State Records that he formally surrendered his claim to the General Court, March 14, 1660.\*

The descendants of Mason denied the validity of this transaction, or questioned its design, asserting that the conveyance made to their ancestor was with the intent to secure those lands to the Indians, by putting it out of their own power to convey them to others, that Mason received them as their trustee, and had passed over to the colony merely the right of jurisdiction, not the ownership of the lands.

The Indian sachems were thus encouraged by the Masons and their party to regard themselves as the rightful owners of all the unsettled lands in this part of Connecticut. Out of these premises a long and troublesome dispute arose; the case every year becoming more complicated and important. The Masons and Mohegans became closely linked in a claim against the colony for the possession of large tracts of land, occupied by numerous settlers, and comprising the major portion of Colchester, Windham, Mansfield, Hebron, and considerable tracts in some other towns. A vigorous and persevering effort, extending over a period of seventy years, was made by Mason and his descendants to recover the possession of this territory for the Indians.

The professed object of both parties was the benefit of the Indians, but the real controversy was between two classes of the English inhabitants, each actuated by political partizanship or pecuniary interest. The Indians were little more than tools in the hands of their nominal friends, and would have gained but little if the case had been at the outset ostensibly decided in their favor. There was a rage among the white residents for speculating in Indian lands, and the natives would sell either drunk or sober, and often sold the same land several times over. Had it not been for the guardian care and restrictive legislation of the colony, they would have disposed of every foot of their inheritance before 1700, and reduced themselves to the condition of landless, homeless vagrants.

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\* Conn. Col. Rec., 1, 359.



The citizens of Norwich entered into the Mason controversy with great warmth and zeal, most of them espousing the cause of the Indians, some doubtless from an honest opinion that they had been injured and defrauded, and others from interested motives. The case was often tried without being brought to an issue. Many persons put themselves to great inconvenience and expense in entertaining and clothing the Indians, and forwarding their cause, expecting to be remunerated when they should recover their rights. On the Indians themselves it had a very unhappy effect, puffing them up with hopes never to be realized, and leading them into courses of idleness, itineracy, and extravagance. Norwich suffered severely for her indiscretion, her streets and houses being often filled with these exacting and troublesome guests.

The case was first submitted to Commissioners chosen out of all the New England Colonies, and acting under the immediate authority of Queen Anne. This court was held at Stonington in 1705. Thomas Leffingwell of Norwich, a tried friend of the Indian Sachems, was one of the Commissioners, and from his intimate acquaintance with the affairs of the tribe, had great influence with the other members. The colony protested against the authority of this court, and, refusing to appear before it, no defence was made. The decision, as might be expected, was against her, but no attempt was made by the English Government to enforce the decree.

A subsequent investigation of this case, under the authority of the General Court, was made at Norwich, in the winter of 1717-18, and was pending at the time of the great snow-storm, famous over all New England, Feb. 17. The proceedings of the Commissioners, who met in the house of Richard Bushnell, Esq., were much impeded by the snow. For several days the members were scarcely able to get together.

The next October a further committee was appointed by the Assembly, and directed to repair to Mohegan, to hear the grievances of the Indians, and to endeavor to settle all differences between them and their neighbors. These Commissioners, James Wadsworth, Esq., and Capt. John Hall, met at the house of Lieut. Joseph Bradford in Mohegan, March 16, 1720, for the purpose of marking out the boundary lines between the Indians and the towns of New London and Norwich.\* They had another meeting at the same place in February, 1720-21, and were apparently very successful in settling the various claims and reconciling all parties. In conclu-

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\* Joshua Hempstead of New London attended this meeting of the Commissioners. As he went up, with the aid of two assistants he measured the road from New London to Norwich, through the Mohegan territory, and records the result in his diary. "From the Mill Dam in New London to Trading Cove brook where we ride over at ye end of Norwich plain is 9 mile and a half and 36 rods." The eighth mile, he says, "is in the falling ground a little beyond the Stone Fort."

sion they laid out and sequestered to the use of the Indians between four and five thousand acres of good land, which was never to be alienated until the tribe became extinct. These proceedings were ratified by act of Assembly, May 11, 1721.

In 1723, Capt. John Mason, third of that name in regular descent, stated to the General Court that the Commission of 1705 had cost him more than £600, which was a large proportion of his estate, and he asked for indemnification out of the Mohegan lands that had caused the controversy. Had he succeeded in this application, it might have put an end to the contest, but the court decided that he had no claims upon them for redress, and the struggle was renewed. The Masons again carried their complaints to England, and a Commission of Review was appointed by George 2d, to examine the proceedings of the Court at Stonington in 1705, and discarding all intermediate acts and decisions, to confirm or annul the decision of that Court.

This Commission, consisting of the Lieut. Governor and Council of New York, and the Governor and Assistants of Rhode Island, convened at Norwich, May 24, 1738. The Commissioners not agreeing as to the course to be pursued, the members from New York, at the outset, entered a protest and withdrew. The remainder, after an examination of witnesses, reversed the decision of the court, and gave judgment in favor of the colony.\*

John and Samuel Mason, however, would not suffer the matter to rest here; they presented a memorial to the King, alleging that the proceedings of the court were irregular, and in behalf of the Indians praying for a redress of grievances. Orders were therefore issued for a new Commission of Review.

This second Court of Commissioners convened at Norwich, June 28, 1743, and the trial lasted seven weeks. The sessions commenced at the house of Simon Lathrop, Esq., but on the third day were adjourned to the meeting-house, where the remainder of the sitting was held. The town at this time literally overflowed with strangers, and no business of any kind was done, except what was connected with the pending controversy, and the necessary purposes of life. All the officers of government and distinguished men in the colony were present. The whole tribe of Mohegans was quartered upon the inhabitants, and hundreds of persons in the neighboring towns, who had lands at stake, came in from day to day, to hear the proceedings. The Lathrops, Huntingtons, Leffingwells, Tracys, and all the principal men in Norwich, were of the Indian party,

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\* "June 5, 1738. The great Court of Commissioners at Norwich is over and the case is gone in favor of the Colony. The New York Counsellors, viz. Coll. Cortland and Mr. Hossmonden, deserted and drew off and the Gov. & Council of Rhode Island hath reversed the former judgment." Hempstead's Diary.



and kept open house for John Uncas and his people. Ben Uncas was upheld by the State, and his party was rendered respectable by the notice of all the officers of government. The rival sachems maintained considerable pomp and state while the trial continued, which was until the 17th of August.

The decision was again in favor of the colony ; but the Masons appealed from the judgment to the King in council, and thenceforth all legal action upon the case was transferred to England. The final decision was not until 1767. Sir Fletcher Norton, then prime minister, advised that the English should be conciliated by a decision against the Indians.

It was the prevalent opinion in England that the Mohegans had right on their side, but that it was not expedient to do them justice, and indeed not equitable, as the English had long possessed and improved the lands in question, and the Indians had dwindled away and did not need them. One of the Masons, however, remained long in England, prosecuting his claim ; obtained money upon it, sold out rights in it, ran in debt upon it, was at one time a prisoner in the Fleet, and never returned to his native country. The Revolutionary war soon afterwards broke out, the Mohegans found themselves at the mercy of the State, and never afterwards showed any disposition to renew their claims. Occom, the eloquent advocate and preacher of this tribe, on hearing of the termination of this affair, writes thus to a friend :

“The grand controversy which has subsisted between the colony of Conn. and the Mohegan Indians, above seventy years, is finally decided in favor of the colony. I am afraid the poor Indians will never stand a good chance with the English in their land controversies, because they are very poor, they have no money. Money is almighty now-a-days, and the Indians have no learning, no wit, no cunning : the English have all.” [MS. Letter of Occom.]

(Autograph.)

1754.

*Samson Occom.*

In this controversy, our sympathies are very naturally enlisted in favor of the Indians ; nevertheless, it does not appear that they were treated with any undue severity or injustice by the colony. Most of the settlers on the debatable lands, fairly purchased them, and had obtained deeds, though not, perhaps, always of the lawful owners. And there is reason to believe that the Indians themselves would not have complained, had they not been instigated by others. This case may fairly be merged in

the great question still pending and unsettled, whether a civilized race has a right, under any circumstances, to take possession of a country inhabited by savages, and gradually dispossess the original proprietors.\*

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\* Materials for the history of the Mason Controversy are to be found in the Book of Proceedings of the several Commission Courts in this case, which was printed in London for the use of the King and Council in making their final decision,—a copy of which was sent to the Colony, and is preserved among the State Records at Hartford. It contains several interesting documents. Among them is one presented at the great Commission Court held at Norwich in 1743, by Ben Uncas 2d, who was then the chief Sachem of Mohegan. Being allowed to offer what he had to communicate, he came forward in person, with a Bible in his hand and a brazen crown in the shape of a hawk upon his head, and presented a writing, of which the following is the first part :

“I am now in the 48th year of my age, and after the decease of my father, Ben Uncas, in 1725, was chosen and installed chief Sachem and have ever since remained in actual exercise of power, and as one evidence, I have here in Court, the Bible translated into Indian, which was sent by Charles Second, King of England, unto the then chief Sachem and delivered successively at every instalment, and also a certain brass hawk, taken from a famous great Captain of the Narragansetts, our enemies, by one of my ancestors in a famous battle and victory over said Narragansetts, always delivered in like manner and kept as a memorial of the great battle and victory.”



## CHAPTER XVII.

### TOWN AFFAIRS. JUSTICES' COURTS.

THE annual expenditure of the town during the first century of its existence amounted to a very small sum. The heaviest items, unless on some extraordinary occasion, were for perambulating and stating bounds, laying out highways, plank for bridges, and the bounty on killing birds and snakes. Exclusive of this last item, the annual demands upon the treasury frequently fell below £10. The expenses arising out of the difficulties that existed with neighboring towns, on account of boundaries, added some years greatly to this amount. There was an ever-open quarrel respecting a tract of land south of the Norwich and north of the New London line, with the Indians or individual settlers. The disputes with Preston were still more perplexing and acrimonious. They commenced in 1695, and continued for nearly a century, being a constant source of litigation, trouble, and expense. Committees were appointed from year to year to settle the boundary-line between the two towns, but it would not remain settled. In the year 1718 there was an access of bitterness and self-interest on both sides, and the contention was severe. It is scarcely credible that a contest between friends and neighbors, merely for territorial jurisdiction, should have been so often renewed, and so long in wearing out. The hostility, however, as in most instances of the kind in our settlements, was not between individual inhabitants, but the towns in their collective capacity.\*

#### LIST OF TOWN DEBTS. DEC. 30, 1718.

	£	s.	d.
To John Tracy for killing 4 snakes, - - - - -	0	0	8
Th. Leffingwell Jr. 6 do - - - - -	0	1	0
Elisha Waterman 67 birds - - - - -	0	2	9½
John Rood 24 do - - - - -	0	1	0
Jabez Hide 5 snakes - - - - -	0	0	10
Th. Bingham 4 snakes and drumming - - - - -	1	0	8

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\* In 1723 the disputes respecting the town boundaries were carried to the Legislature for decision. Benajah Bushnell was the town agent in the business. He was absent twelve days, and charged the town £2 10s.

Th. Leffingwell Jr. one day to meet New London Committee	0	5	0
Joseph Reynolds for a plank	-	-	0 1 0
Solomon Tracy one day on Committee	-	-	0 5 0
Charges about Preston Line	-	-	6 13 10
Several persons for perambulating at 3s. per day each.			

Occasionally we find a town expenditure for military equipments, and for "ammunition, with the charge of bringing it up from New London."

In 1720, John and Simon Tracy were appointed by the town "to make search for the Towne Armes, with their magazeans of amunition and other accotremments for war, injoynd by law," who reported as follows :

At Lieut. Tracy's two Guns and two pair of Snoe shoes.

At Samuel Fales one gun and at Licut. Bushnells one Barril of Pouder and one gun and 77 pound of Led.\*

At Lieut. Backuses 344 pound of bullets.

At Ens. Leffingwells one Barril of Pouder.

At Deacon Simon Huntingtons one half Barril of Pouder and 31 pound of bullets and 400 flints.

At Simon Tracys one pair of Snoe shoes, and 4 pair of maugosuns—we were also informed yt there was formerly Lent to Mr. John Leffingwell pr Lieut. Bushnell 71 pound of Led which sd Leffingwell was obliged to pay in Bullits ye same quantity.

All ye Led and Bullits 523 pound.

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*The Town's Poor.* The earliest instance on record of a poor person supported by the town, is the following from the records of the county court :

Feb. 9, 1685-6. "The Courte having ordered Katherinc Duneffin to be accounted the poore of Norwich and by them to be provided for, orders two shillings pr weeke to be paydc by the Town of Norwich for ye bringing up the child for 2 years from this date."

Expenses incurred for the poor rarely appear in the early accounts of the town, but occasionally, in the course of years, a few items are found ; such as, "a pair of shoes for Alice Cook, 5s.," "a coat and leather breeches for old Russell, 12s.," "a sheet to bury John Nickols in, 10s.," "13 watches with Gaylor at 2s. per night, £1 6s."

Dec. 19, 1727. To Thomas Blythe for digging Gaylor's Grave, 5s.

Dec. 17, 1728. To Jacob Hyde for digging Micah Rood's grave, 4s.

In 1723, great amazement seems to have been excited in the townsmen by what they designate "the extraordinary charge of Henry Wallbridge Jr. for entertayneing Christian Challenge in her late sickness and distraction

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\* It was not uncommon for soldiers at this time to run their own bullets : this fact accounts for the quantity of lead on hand.



at his house." Yet the whole charge for eight weeks "nursing, diet, and strengthening salve," going for doctors, four days waiting and tending, and finally conveying her to Windham, amounts only to £3 5s. 6d. Dr. Calib Bushnell's bill "tords the cure of Christian Challenge," stands thus, and will show what a physician's fees then were:

To 3 travells	-	-	-	-	£0	7	6
to Lusisalig Bolsum		-	-	-	0	4	0
to 3 times Bleeding	-	-	-	-	0	1	6

This poor woman appears to have been a traveler, tramper, or transient person, as wandering beggars are indifferently called in New England, who was "rode over by Solomon Story on the Sabbath day, either wilfully or carelessly," and being very much hurt, was for some time a burden on the town.

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*The Courts.* In 1720 the erection of a town-house was proposed. Subscriptions for the building were taken up, and a corner of the Plain fixed upon for the site. Norwich was then engaged in a struggle to wrest from New London a share of the county court sessions, and if successful in the contest, a town-house would be necessary for the accommodation of the courts. But the Legislature did not see fit to grant the half-shire privilege at that time, and the house was not built.

Another strenuous effort was made in 1734, the inhabitants petitioning the General Assembly that the Supreme Court in March, and the Superior Court in November, for New London County, might be held in Norwich. The agents for the town in this business were Capt. John Williams, Capt. Joseph Tracy, and Mr. Hezekiah Huntington. The petition was granted, and Norwich became a half-shire town.

The contest had been long and determined, marked in some instances with bitterness and exasperation; but Norwich, having grown rapidly in numbers and influence, at length had her claim to a share of the courts sanctioned by equity and the public convenience.

In connection with this privilege, the town came under the obligation of furnishing convenient accommodations for the courts and county prisoners. A new jail or prison-house was soon afterward built and ceded to the county, and a town-house erected under the oversight of the selectmen, the expense being defrayed by a penny tax on polls and ratable estates.

The jail stood under the shelter of the hill, upon the parsonage lot, nearly in the rear of the present brick school-house. The town-house was at the south-west corner of the Green, with a whipping-post and pillory near.

The key of the town-house was formally delivered into the custody of Capt. Joseph Tracy, in 1737, and a room ordered to be finished under his direction, in the garret, for the town's stock of ammunition. The following vote was then passed:

"It is now ordered and enacted, that if any man shall smoke it, in the time of sessions of any town meeting, within this house, he shall forfeit the sum of 5 shillings."

In Hempstead's Diary, under date of Dec. 1, 1740, we have the following brief item:

"Court held in Norwich; 550 actions, new and old."

Capt. Joseph Tracy was son to John Tracy, one of the thirty-five proprietors. He was a very respectable and dignified man, and for a long course of years was uniformly chosen moderator of all public meetings, in alternation with Capt. Jabez Hide. He died in 1765, aged eighty-three.

In 1745 we find the care of the town-house and arms committed to Capt. Philip Turner, and this is the first time that gentleman's name appears on the records. He came from Scituate, Mass., married Anne, daughter of Daniel Huntington, and soon acquired an enviable popularity among his new associates, performing the duties of constable, selectman, and captain of the troop of horse, a spirited band of young men, that he took much pride in parading and exercising. Many bright anticipations were destroyed by his death in 1755, at the age of thirty-nine.

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April 28, 1730, all the freemen were enrolled. They amounted to 158; thirteen more were added in September, making 171. The first on the list, and probably so placed in respect to age and dignity, were Joseph Backus, Esq., the three reverend ministers, Lord, Willes, and Kirtland, and the two deacons, Simon and Christopher Huntington. After these come Samuel and Israel Lothrop, William Hide, Esq., Mr. Thomas Adgate, Capt. Jabez Perkins, Capt. Benajah Bushnell, and Capt. John Leffingwell.

It is worthy of note, that at this time and for many years afterwards, there were but one or two citizens at a time who bore the title of Esq., denoting a Justice of the Peace.

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The most conspicuous points in town, where all public notifications were ordered to be set up, were the sign-post on the Green, Benajah Leffingwell's gate-post, and "the parting of the paths at the corner of Ebenezer Backus's garden." This last position is still a prominent one, consisting of an elliptical plot of land, having an elevated platform where the



house stands, and embraced by highways that run together above and below.\* It was the homestead of Joseph Backus Esq., familiarly known for many years as Mr. Justice Backus, and afterwards of his son Ebenezer, who built the present house, and set out with his own hand the two fine elms before the door. One of the daughters of Ebenezer Backus married the second Governor Trumbull.

In the town-plot two open squares, or plains, were reserved for public use; one near the centre, and the other on Bean Hill. Repeated applications to build upon them, by individuals, were refused, and all encroachments reprehended. "There shall be no shop, house or barn, or any other private building erected on any part of said plain," was the language of these resolutions.

In 1729, the proprietors agree, vote, and grant, "that the Plain in the Town Platt, called the meeting house plain, with all the contents and extents of it," as it now lyeth, shall be and remain, to be, and lye common for public use for the whole town forever, without alteration."

A similar vote was passed at the same time with respect to "the Plain at the westerly end of the Town Platt, lying between Richard Egerton's and John Waterman's, Abial Marshall's and the widow Hide's houses."

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In 1743, Messrs. Richard Hide and Ebenezer Hartshorn were appointed to survey the town, and draw a plan of it, embracing the course of the rivers and larger rivulets. The town now comprised eight ecclesiastical societies, viz.: First, West, Newent, East, New Concord, Chelsy, Hanover, and Eighth; but the First or Town Plot society still maintained its pre-eminence, possessing twice the number of inhabitants and three times the amount of influence of any other.

Schools were maintained by what was called a *country rate* of forty shillings upon the thousand pounds, and all deficiencies made up by parents and guardians. The schools were distributed over the town, and kept a longer or shorter period, according to the list of each society. In 1745 the appointment was as follows:

School at the Landing Place to be kept,	-	3 months and 17 days.
" two in the Town Plot, one at each end,		5½ months each.
" at Plain Hills, - - - -	-	2 months 19 days.
" Waweekus Hill, - - - -	1	" 16 "
" Great Plain, - - - -	2	" 18 "
" Wequanuk, - - - -	2	" 15 "
" on Windham road, - - - -	2	" 11 "

If any of these schools should be kept by a woman, the time was to be doubled, as the pay of the mistress was but half that to the master.

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\* Now the residence of Mr. Samuel Case.

The following is a sample of simplicity and disinterestedness in making out a bill:

"Dec. 16 day 1745. The town is Dr. to me Jacob Hide for 208 feet of 2 inch plank improved to make and mend bridges by order of the surveyor of highways. The price of said 208 feet of plank I think must be about 30s. more or less as the town thinks fit."

Voted, that the selectmen pay Jacob Hide what is just.

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In 1746 Mr. Benedict Arnold was chosen grand-juryman, but refused to serve.

The town declared that if any one hereafter refuse to serve on the grand jury, he shall pay a fine.

Town offices in general were not considered very desirable, but those of juror and rate-collector were the only ones so obnoxious as to render fines and compulsion necessary in order to obtain the service.

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Law books and other publications for which the town were subscribers, were generally distributed among the several societies according to their respective lists. Election sermons were also subject to a town order.

1702. Voted that the Law books belonging to the town shall be sold at 18d. apiece.

1726. Voted that every Society Clerk shall have a law book and the rest with *the Sermon books*, sold and the money put into the town treasury.

1751. Eleven law books in possession of the town are ordered to be sold at £5 10s. per book, O. T: 4 to First Society, 2 to West Society, the same to East Society and Newent, and one to New Concord.

17 Dec. 1764. Whereas, there are a number of books called the Saybrook Platform now in the town treasury to be disposed of for the town's use, and also a number of Election Sermons, this town do now order the selectmen to distribute said books to, and among the several societies in this town, in proportion to the list of said societies.

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In 1751 the selectmen were empowered to prosecute with vigor all who should sell or convey land to strangers, and all sales of this kind were declared null and void. Orders were given likewise that no strangers should remain in the town without the public consent, and this consent seems to have been very cautiously dispensed. Applications were frequently made for permission to stay in town for a limited time, but this was seldom granted without some condition annexed; such as, if he then remove,—if he behave himself,—if he do not become chargeable. These votes stretch down to 1769.



1752. A committee was appointed to treat with the Rev. Benjamin Lord relating to his resigning to the town his right of improvement of the parsonage lands purchased of Mr. Giffords.

This parsonage land comprised the original home-lot and pasturage of the proprietor, Stephen Gifford. A portion of it, bordering the north-east side of the Green, was now in request for building purposes. Mr. Lord relinquished his right, and the land was divided into lots, several of which were rented upon long leases, and in the course of a few years occupied with houses.

This parsonage land having been sequestered for the ministry when the whole town was but one parish, was the cause of some uneasiness and litigation when other societies were formed; these societies claiming a portion of the use and rental.

1754. "At present the township of Norwich pays the highest tax of any township in the colony."\*

A few examples of cases of trespass brought before justices of the peace for adjudication, will illustrate the condition of society in the first half of the 18th century.

The penalties at this time were :

For drunkenness, a fine, (5s. to 10s.,) or to sit in the stocks a couple of hours.

Not attending public worship when there was no necessary detention, 5s.

Profane swearing, 10s.

Sabbath-breaking, by labor or vain recreation, making disturbance, or laughing during the service in the House of God, 5s.

Assault and battery, or abusive words, blows and injuries,—fines or imprisonment, at discretion of the justice.

Incontinence, births out of wedlock, or too soon after marriage, £10.

These and actions of debt were cases which a justice's court was considered competent to decide, but appeals were allowed to a higher tribunal.

If a judgment may be formed from the number of cases and the apparent respectability of some of the delinquents, drunkenness was increasing rapidly in the land. Another species of criminality, so prevalent as to excite surprise, was perhaps the natural result of an intercourse too little restrained between the young people of different sexes.

No justice in the county was more popular than Richard Bushnell. Cases were brought before him from Windham, Plainfield, Canterbury, Killingly, Preston, North Groton, and North Stonington.

\* Chapter on Connecticut, in Douglass' Summary, printed at Boston in 1754.

"3rd of June 1708. Joseph Bushnell of Norwich complained against himself to me Richard Bushnell, Justice of the Peace, for y<sup>t</sup> he had killed a Buck contrary to law. I sentenced him to pay a fine of 10s. one half to y<sup>e</sup> county treasury and one half to complainant."

"March 26 1718. Mrs. Sarah Knight, Samuel Bliss, Joseph Post, Theophilus Abell and his wife and y<sup>e</sup> wife of William Hide were brought before me R. B. justice of y<sup>e</sup> peace upon y<sup>e</sup> presentment of y<sup>e</sup> Grand Jurors of our Sovereign Lord y<sup>e</sup> king for selling strong drink to the Indians last Saturday.

"Mrs. Knight accused her maid, Ann Clark, of selling the liquor. Refusing to acquit themselves by oath they were each sentenced to pay a fine of 20s. to the County Treasury."

"July 20, 1720. Samuel Sabin appeareth before me R. B. Justice of the Peace, and complaineth against himself that the last Sabbath at night, he and John Olmsby went on to Wawwecoas Hill, to visit their relations, and were late home, did no harm, and fears it may be a transgression of y<sup>e</sup> law and if it be is very sorry for it and dont allow himself in unseasonable night-walking."

"An inferior Court held at Norwich y<sup>e</sup> 19. Sept. 1720. Present R. Bushnell Justice of y<sup>e</sup> Peace. Samuel Fox juror pr. complaint, Lettis Minor and Hannah Minor Pts. for illegally and feloniously about y<sup>e</sup> 6 of Sept<sup>r</sup> inst. taking about 30 water-millions which is contrary to Law and is to his damage he saith y<sup>e</sup> sum of 20s. and prays for justice. This Court having considered y<sup>e</sup> evidence dont find matter of fact proved, do therefore acquit the Dts. and order y<sup>e</sup> Ptf. pay the charge of Presentment."

"May 6, 1721. A complaint was entered by the constable against Samuel Law, doctor, for profane swearing: he was fined 10s."

The same year, Henry Holland of Plainfield was proved guilty of a like offence, and adjudged to pay the fine and cost. Not long afterward, Holland was bound over to appear at the next county court, and answer for breaking the peace and the law, by saying "in a tumultuous violent threatening manner, yt he would take the head of Jona'n Tracy off his shoulders."

"1722, Nov. 16. Complaint made by Mr. Isaac Wheeler of Stonington against William Holdridge of Stonington, for an assault with sword, at the house of said Holdridge in Stonington: he was bound to appear at the County Court, giving £20 security."

An Indian being found drunk, was brought before Mr. Justice Bushnell, and sentenced according to the statute, namely, to pay a fine of ten shillings, or receive ten lashes on his naked body. The Indian immediately accuses Samuel Bliss of selling him that afternoon that which made him drunk, to wit, two pots of cider. The fine for selling cider or ardent spirits to an Indian was twenty shillings, one-half to go to the complainant. The Indian thus obtained just the sum requisite to pay his own mulct, and set his body clear. The record of this affair is as follows:



"Feb. ye 7—1722-3. Apenanucsuck being drunk was brought before me R. Bushnell, Justice of ye peace. I do sentence ye sd Apeonuchsuck for his transgression of ye law to pay a fine of 10s. or to be whipt ten Lashes on y<sup>e</sup> naked body, and to pay y<sup>e</sup> cost of his prosecution, and to continue in y<sup>e</sup> constable's custody till this sentence be performed.

"Cost allowed is 6s 6.

"John Waterman promises to pay 6s 4.

"Apeanuchsuck accused Samuel Bliss y<sup>t</sup> he sold him 2 pots of cider this afternoon. Mr. Samuel Bliss appeared before me and confessed he let sd Indian have some cider and I do therefore sentence sd Bliss to pay y<sup>e</sup> fine of 20s. for ye transgression of y<sup>e</sup> law one half to y<sup>e</sup> town and one half to complainant.

R. BUSHNELL, Justice."

Isaac Huntington, Esq., was another noted justice, some of whose minutes have been preserved.\* A few cases will be given in an abridged form.

In 1738 a charge was brought against Thomas Avery, Ebenezer Baldwin, Abiall Marshall, and David Bingham, single men and boarders or sojourners in the town, that they "did convean and meet in company with sundry others att ye house of William Waterman ye 4th day of June last, it being Sabboth evening."

No complaint was made of any disturbance or impropriety of conduct; it was the bare fact of a social meeting on Sunday evening, which was presented as contrary to law.†

Ebenezer Baldwin pleaded *Not guilty*, and replied to the charge as follows :

"True it is we did convean with the company and att ye time and place sett forth in ye Complaint, but he saith, he is not guilty for these reasons, first, he is not a *single* person, as having an apprentice by indenture, 2dly, he is not a *boarder*, having ye care of a family, 3dly, he is not a *sojourner* as living in ye place where he was born and bred."

The Court is of opinion he *is guilty*, and fines him 5s. and costs. Appeal granted to be heard in ye County Court.

July 12. John Downer and Solomon Hambleton for profaning the Sabbath day by oystering, fined 5s. and costs.

2d day of November, 1738. Present Isaac Huntington Justice of Peace.

Mary Leffingwell daughter of Daniell Leffingwell of Norwich, single woman, was brought before this Court to answer the complaint of one of ye grand jurors of our Lord the king who upon oath presents that ye said Mary Leffingwell on ye 24th day of September last, it being Saboth or Lord's day (and not being necessarily detained) did not duly attend ye publick worship of God on the said 24th day in any congregation by law allowed as by the presentment dated October 7th 1738 and the writt dated Oct 30. 1738 on file may appear.

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\* Original in Otis Library.

† In County Court, 1715, Paul Davenport of Canterbury appeared and acknowledged himself guilty of a breach of the law by riding from Providence to Canterbury on the Sabbath day, and paid the fine of 20s.

The said Mary pleaded not Guilty. Butt not being able to prove to the satisfaction of this Court that she was necessarily detained ; nor that she did attend the said worship, this Court is of opinion that she is guilty in manner and form.

And it is therefore considered the said Mary Leffingwell pay as a fine to ye treasury of ye town of Norwich the sum of five shillings and cost of suit. Taxed £0.10.8. Judgment satisfied.

In 1749, Mr. Huntington's record shows that a person was fined 20s. for playing cards, and another 5s. for laughing in meeting.

In 1756, three sons of Capt. John Fillmore, Jr., viz., Nathaniel, Comfort, and Amaziah, were brought before Mr. Justice Huntington, charged with driving the rate-collector from their father's house, armed with clubs and making use of threats and abusive language. Being minors, they were released without penalty, but the record intimates that their father was implicated in the misconduct of his sons. The family were probably Separatists, and refused to pay rates for the support of the regular ministry.

These lads were between thirteen and seventeen years of age. Nathaniel, the oldest, was subsequently a soldier in the French war, and also in the war of the Revolution. He settled at Bennington, Vt., and was grandfather of Millard Fillmore, thirteenth President of the United States.

To show that this rigid supervision of the public morals continued until a late period, a few minutes of cases of trespass will be given from MS. papers of Richard Hide, Esq., Justice of the Peace, between the years 1760 and 1780.

A man presented for profane swearing, having been heard to say at the public house—*damn me*. Sentenced to pay the fine of 6s. and the costs, 6s. 3d.

Another for a similar offence, the culprit using the words *Go to the Devil*. Fine 6s., costs 8s. 10d.

A breach of peace by tumultuous behavior,—fine 10s., costs 18s. 8d.

1771. A young woman presented for laughing, in a meeting for public worship, at Mr. Grover's, Sabbath evening—two females for witnesses—culprit dismissed with a reprimand.

1774. Eben<sup>r</sup> Waterman Jr. presented by a grand juror, for profaning the Sabbath, in the gallery of the meeting-house in West Society, by talking in the time of divine service in a merry manner, to make sport. Plead guilty—fine 10s.

“To Richard Hide, Esq., of Norwich, one of his majesty's Justices of the Peace for the county of New London, comes Ezra Huntington of said Norwich, one of the grand jurors of said county, and on oath informs and presents, that Asa Fuller, apprentice to said Ezra Huntington, and Ede Trap, son to Thomas Trap, and Lemuel Wentworth, son to James Wentworth, and Hannah Forsey, and Elizabeth Winship, a minor, and daughter of the widow Winship, all of Norwich aforesaid, did, in Norwich aforesaid, on the evening following the 27th day of May last, it being Sabbath or Lord's Day



evening, meet and convene together, and walk in the street in company, upon no religious occasion, all which is contrary to the statute of this colony in such case made and provided.

For evidence take Peter Latham and Unice Manning.

Dated in Norwich, this 11th day of June, 1770."

Five endorsements are made on the back of this presentment—one for each of the offenders—of the following import:

"June 13, 1770. Then personally appeared Hannah Forsey, and confessed guilty of the matter within, and sentenced to pay 3s. to the Treasury of the Town and 1s. cost.—Before Richard Hide, Justice of Peace.—Judgment satisfied."

Number of persons admitted as freemen of Norwich, from 1764 to 1777 inclusive, of the following family names:

Abell, 12.	Huntington, 22.	Perkins, 11.
Backus, 10.	Hyde, 22.	Smith, 11.
Bushnell, 10.	Lathrop, 24.	Tracy, 25.
Edgerton, 10.	Leffingwell, 8.	Waterman, 14.

Other names of early proprietors had not increased in similar proportion:

Adgate, 1.	Elderkin, 1.	Mason, 1.
Baldwin, 4.	Fitch, 6.	Post, 3.
Bingham, 3.	Gager, 5.	Reed, 5.
Birchard, 2.	Gifford, 1.	Reynolds, 1.
Bliss, 3.	Griswold, 2.	Rudd, 6.
Calkins, 4.		

## CHAPTER XVIII.

### ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS. MINISTERS WOODWARD AND LORD.

IN 1708, the town was presented with a bell by Capt. René Grignon, a French Protestant who had recently established himself in the place. This is supposed to have been a Huguenot bell, brought from France by a band of French exiles, who purchased lands at Oxford, Mass., and began a settlement, which the hostile visits of the Indians obliged them soon to abandon. Capt. Grignon was one of this dispersed company, and the bell had doubtless resounded on the shores of France and amid the woods of Oxford, before it came to Norwich.

A vote of thanks was tendered to the generous captain, and the bell was ordered "*to be hung in the hill between the ends of the town,*" and to be rung on the Sabbath and "on all public days and at nine o'clock in the evening, as is customary in other places where there are bells."

The phrase, "*in the hill,*" is a doubtful one, but according to tradition the Grignon bell was suspended from a scaffolding erected upon the ridge of the hill west of the meeting-house, near the path by which foot-people from the upper part of the town came across lots to meeting. Here it remained for many years unconnected with the church, and midway between the east and west ends of the town-plot. The position was grand and imposing. The bell dominated from its lofty site over the wide landscape from Yantic and Plain Hill to Waweekus Hill at the Landing.

Capt. Grignon was admitted to the privileges of an inhabitant in 1710, but enjoyed them only for five years before he was removed by death. The town lost in him a liberal and esteemed citizen. His wife preceded him to the grave, and he left no children.\*

Dec. 6, 1709, a vote was passed to build a new meeting-house, the dimensions not to exceed 55 feet by 45, to be modeled by a committee of the church, and completed by March 1, 1712.

But now a long and vehement dispute arose with respect to its location. One party was for having it stand upon the site of the old one upon the hill; the other, on the plain. Both sides were exceedingly violent and

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\* See note at the end of the chapter.



obstinate, and for two or three years the whole town was absorbed by the question. At length they agreed to submit it to three impartial gentlemen of Lebanon. Capt. William Clark, Mr. William Halsey, and Mr. Samuel Huntington were designated as umpires. These persons came to Norwich, examined the premises with care, heard all that either party had to allege, and after due deliberation recommended that it should be built on the plain.

The frame was accordingly prepared upon the plain, but the community was not satisfied, and the town refused to concur. Another meeting was called, at which only twenty-eight persons voted, but of these, twenty-seven were for setting the house upon the hill, and this party prevailed.\*

The new building stood near the site of the old one, and was completed for service in December, 1713. A vote was then passed to sell the old edifice, which had lasted forty years.

John Elderkin, 2d, son of the old church builder, was the architect of this new building. After its completion he presented his petition, stating that he had suffered considerable loss by his agreement, and praying "the worthy gentlemen of the town to make some retaliation." He was accordingly relieved by a grant of fifty acres of land.

The expense of this edifice was mainly defrayed by sales of land. A meeting-house committee was in the first place appointed, who offered land in lieu of money to be advanced for the work. Capt. Grignon, among others, advanced small sums at several different times, and received in return portions of land.

One of the fixtures of this meeting-house was an hour-glass, placed in a frame and made fast to the pulpit; [cost 2s. 8d.] This hour-glass, in 1729, was placed under the particular charge of Capt. Joseph Tracy, who was requested to see that it was duly turned when it ran out in service time, and that the time was kept between meetings; the bellman being charged to attend his orders herein.

Nothing has been found on record that furnishes any hint respecting the architecture of this church. It was probably crowned with a steeple and belfry, but it is doubtful whether the Grignon bell was ever removed to it.

Among the worshipers in this sanctuary was Mrs. Sarah Knight, a trades-woman from Boston, who resided for a few years in Norwich, and has been identified as the Mrs. Knight whose *Diary of a Journey from*

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\* The place finally decided upon, and the actual building of the house, are not stated in the records; and the fact that the frame-work was prepared and set up on the plain, led the author, in the first edition of this work, to adopt the opinion that this third meeting-house was built upon the plain. But further investigation and the uniform testimony of tradition, which show that the hill-top was crowned with a church, where the congregation gathered for worship till 1760, or later, have led to a reverse conclusion.

Boston to New York, made on horseback in 1704, was preserved in manuscript and first published in 1825.

The following extract is from the town record, Aug. 12, 1717:

“The town grants liberty to Mrs. Sarah Knight to sitt in the pue where she use to sit in ye meeting house.”

This evidently refers to a previous residence in the place. According to tradition, she presented to the church a handsome silver goblet to be used in their communion service.

Colonel John Livingston of New London, who married Elizabeth, the daughter and only child of Mrs. Knight, died in England, but the inventory of his personal effects was taken at the house of Mrs. Sarah Knight, in Norwich, March 10, 1721. She removed afterward with her daughter to the Livingston farm in the Mohegan territory, where she died in 1727, and was buried in the old cemetery at New London.\*

The old meeting-house was sold to Nathaniel Rudd for £12.5.6; but the purchaser afterward representing to the town that he was “sick of his bargain,” the price was considerably reduced.† The inhabitants of the West Farms were at that time looking forward to a separate ecclesiastical organization, and the relinquished edifice was designed by Mr. Rudd for their use. The frame was doubtless left behind, but the old pews, pulpit, galleries, &c., afterward performed a second period of service on a commanding height in the present town of Franklin.

Ecclesiastical dissensions began to agitate the town immediately after the promulgation of the Saybrook Platform in 1708. The Norwich Church was of the independent Congregational order, firmly planted upon the Cambridge Platform, and jealous of extraneous influences, whether civil or ecclesiastical. The members claimed the right of ordering church affairs in their own way, and denied the jurisdiction of magistrates and presbyteries.

The Saybrook Platform—a body of rules for the regulation of churches—was drawn up and adopted by a council of delegates from various churches in Connecticut, at Saybrook, where this instrument was signed, Sept. 9, 1708. The delegates were sixteen in number, twelve ministers and four laymen. It was confirmed by the General Court in October of the same year, and established as a law of the colony. No churches were acknowledged by law, as churches, that did not subscribe to this platform.

But the Legislature added a proviso to the law, allowing churches and

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\* Five deeds, to “Sarah Knight, widow and shop-keeper,” or to “Mistress Sarah Knight, shop-keeper,” are recorded at Norwich from 1716 to 1718. In the inventory of her estate, her property in Norwich was valued at £210. She had made large purchases of Indian land in partnership with Joseph Bradford.

† The accounts of the West Farms parish show that they gave for it £5 10s.



societies that dissented, to exercise worship and discipline in their own way, according to their consciences.

Mr. Woodward had been one of the delegates, and Secretary of the Synod. He was a warm advocate of the Platform, and strenuous for its adoption by the church of which he was pastor. It is said that when he received the act of the Legislature, accepting and establishing the Platform as the ecclesiastical constitution of the colony, he read off the first clause of it to his congregation, but withheld that part of it which allowed dissenters to regulate their worship in their own way; whereupon the representatives of the town, Richard Bushnell and Joseph Backus, rose in their seats and laid the whole act before the people.

Mr. Woodward appears at this time to have been sustained by a majority of the church, but the rent that had been made widening daily, the two members mentioned above and many others withdrew from the congregation and held meetings on the Sabbath by themselves. At the next session of the Legislature, the two representatives from Norwich were called upon to answer for the course they had taken, and expelled from the house with a vote of censure.

Mr. Woodward made no entry upon the records respecting the dissensions that disturbed the community. The registry of baptisms and admissions to the church is all that appears under his hand after 1709. The town records are also chary in their allusions to this overshadowing trouble, merely giving results, or referring to papers kept on file, which have not come down to us.

The difficulties between minister and people were increased by repeated complaints on his part of the insufficiency of his salary. In 1711, he stated that his family expenses had one year risen to seven-score pounds, and the previous year to six-score. The town, however, voted that they "did not see fit to add to their burdens," and granted only the stipulated sum of £70. Winter wheat was at this time six shillings per bushel, and Indian corn half that price. But to every application of Mr. Woodward from year to year for an increase of salary, the town gave a steady negative.

March 11, 1713-4. A writing was received from Mr. Woodward and twice read and considered. After which the question was put, "Whether it was their mind soberly to dissent from the new Platform of Church discipline;"—the vote passed in the affirmative.

Nov. 16, 1714. This town grants liberty to those that are dissatisfied with the Rev. Mr. Woodward's management in the work of the ministry to call another minister to preach to them, at their own charge until the difficulties they labor under are removed.

A protest against this vote was signed by seventeen persons,—Huntingtons, Lothropes, Tracys, Watermans, and others,—good names and true.

They were now upon the verge of disunion. Several councils were held, one succeeding another, but the waves of discord rolled too high to be soothed by such expedients. Mr. Saltonstall, then Governor of the colony, and a strenuous advocate of the new platform, visited them and used his influence to restore harmony of opinion, but no reconciliation or compromise could be effected.

Mr. Joseph Backus, who was one of the leaders of the party opposed to Mr. Woodward, went to Ipswich to consult with the minister of that place, Mr. John Wise, a noted opponent of ecclesiastical platforms, and to Boston, where he visited Dr. Increase Mather, whose opinions in regard to church independency were of a similar stamp. He came back, confirmed in determination not to yield the point.

5 Oct. 1715. "The inhabitants reflecting with great grief and sorrow on ye divisions and contentions that is yet continuing and increasing in this town, respecting the management of ecclesiastical affairs and no likelihood of a good agreement to go on together, agree to address ye General Assembly for liberty to be two societies.

Voted by a full vote."

Before the above vote was acted upon, Gov. Saltonstall recommended the calling of a council to dismiss Mr. Woodward, as a measure that might possibly prevent an actual rupture of the church. This proposition being laid before the town, resulted in a vote of 44 in his favor against 25 opposers.\*

A council consisting of a select number of the most respectable ministers of New England was accordingly convened. Mr. Stoddard of Northampton was appointed moderator. After long deliberation, the council recommended a dissolution of the connection with Mr. Woodward, and he was accordingly dismissed, Sept. 13, 1716.

The difficulties with Mr. Woodward, and his ultimate dismissal, excited a deep interest in the churches of the country. A disruption of the ties between pastor and parish was then an uncommon event, and not easy to be brought about. The state, as well as the church, ecclesiastical councils, minister and people, must all consent to the canceling of the sacred bond.

Mr. Woodward and the town parted very ungraciously; he, demanding arrearages of salary, and they, contending that he had been overpaid his just dues. Each party afterward instituted legal proceedings against the other for debt or damage, and the accounts were not settled till 1721, when Mr. Woodward recovered judgment against the town, and had his just claims satisfied.

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\* This was called a *paper* vote. Those for dismissal wrote something on their papers; the others brought in clean paper. Capt. Robert Denison was active at this meeting, and assisted the clerk in counting the votes.



Mr. Woodward was a native of Dedham, Mass. After settling in Norwich, he married in 1703, Sarah Rosewell, and when he left the place in 1716, had a family of six children—four daughters and two sons, Rosewell and John. He was never settled again, but lived on a farm in East Haven, where he died in 1746.

The dismissal of Mr. Woodward did not calm the excited minds of the people. To the act itself there was strong opposition,—a protest against it, signed by thirty-four persons, having been presented to the council. The protesters, however, were mostly farmers upon the outlands, not inhabitants of the town-plot.

On the 19th of September, only a few days after the act of dismissal, the town voted to invite Mr. Willard to preach for them as a candidate. This was probably Mr. Joseph Willard, who graduated at Yale College in 1714. He is not again mentioned in the records, and it may be inferred that the invitation was not accepted. The excitement in the church continued, and a rupture seemed inevitable.

Fortunately, Providence had provided a peace-maker who was ready to step forward and in the temper and spirit of the gospel allay the disturbances of the church and bring the members together again as one body. A town vote of Dec. 6, 1716, was the precursor of this better state of affairs.

“Voted to call Mr. Benjamin Lord on tryal.”

Mr. Lord was a native of Saybrook, and then about twenty-four years of age. He graduated at Yale two years before, and was now just entering into the ministry. He came immediately to Norwich, and made himself acceptable to all parties. In June, the next year, he was invited by a unanimous vote of the church to become their minister, with the offer of £100 per annum for salary, with the use of the parsonage lands, and wood sufficient for his use, to be dropped at his door,—“provided he settle himself without charge to the town.”

He was ordained Nov. 20, 1717; both parties uniting in their esteem for him, so that he was accustomed to say he could never tell which was most friendly to him. At his ordination the church explicitly renounced the Saybrook Platform as their code of faith.

The following members of Mr. Fitch's church were still alive:

William Backus,	Solomon Tracy,	Joseph Reynolds,
Stephen Gifford,	Samuel Lothrop,	Chr. Huntington,
Th. Leffingwell,	Joseph Lothrop,	Simon Huntington,
Joseph Bushnell,	John Elderkin,	Samuel Griswold,
Richard Bushnell, Esq.	Caleb Abell,	Nathaniel Backus.
Josiah Reed,		

These, and fifteen others received into the church by Mr. Woodward, composed at this time the male members of the church.

Mr. Lord merited the praise accorded to him, of being "a Repairer of breaches and a Restorer of paths to dwell in." For twenty-seven years after his settlement, the pastor, church and congregation acted harmoniously together, like brethren in unity. "So that [using his own words] from a Massah and a Meribah, a place of Temptation and Strife, this in a good measure became a Salem, a place of Peace."

April 30, 1767. Voted to maintain the ministry not by a rate but by contributions to be taken up by the deacons on the first sabbath of every month.

The two deacons of Mr. Fitch's church were Thomas Adgate and Hugh Calkins. The latter becoming aged, Simon Huntington appears to have been associated with them, probably about 1680. After this the deacons are presented in pairs,—a younger pair being chosen for assistants as the elders advance into the vale of years.

Simon Huntington, the son of Deacon Simon, and Christopher, the son of the proprietor Christopher, constituted the second generation of deacons. In 1718, Thomas Adgate, 2d, and Thomas Leffingwell, were chosen assistant deacons. Mr. Leffingwell died in 1724, Christopher Huntington in 1735, and Simon in 1736, leaving only Deacon Adgate in office.

On the 18th of January, 1737, a fourth set came into office, viz., Hezekiah, son to the late Dea. Christopher Huntington, and Ebenezer, son to the late Dea. Simon Huntington.

No other deacons were appointed until 1764, when Simon Huntington, son of Deacon Ebenezer, and Simon Tracy, Esq., were chosen and introduced into office, with great solemnity. Hands were imposed, and Dr. Lord preached on the occasion from 2 Tim. 3:8-10. [Aug. 31.]

The venerable Deacon Adgate, born in the eighth year of the settlement, lived to be ninety-two years of age. His existence nearly covers the whole space from the settlement to the Revolution.

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*Note.—René Grignon.*

Capt. Grignon was one of the company of protestant exiles, or Huguenots, that settled in the town of Oxford, Mass., about the year 1686. That settlement having been broken up by the Indians in 1696, the exiles were dispersed into various parts of New England. Capt. Grignon came to Norwich, first as master of a trading vessel, but he afterward settled in the town as a goldsmith, and was received to the privileges of a regular inhabitant in 1710.

His will is dated March 20, and proved April 12, 1715. He appointed Richard Bushnell executor, and bequeathed to him his "silver-hilted sword, double-barrel gun, and case of pistols." After small legacies to Daniel Deshon, James Barret, and "Jane Jearson, alias Normandy," he gives the remainder of his estate "to my dear and well-beloved friend Mary Urenne." These persons were all probably members of his family. His wife had deceased a short time before him, and in the inventory of his estate her apparel is estimated at £32.



His house, barn, and interest in mills was set down at £630.

A negro woman and her child, £40.

Horse, £25. Books, £23.

Many debts were however to be paid, and the residue was small.

This estimable French Captain and his wife were undoubtedly interred in the Huntington burial-ground, but no memorial points out the place.

Daniel Deshon, afterward a well-known citizen of New London, was a Huguenot youth in the family of René Grignon, and is thus remembered in his will :

“I give to Daniel Deshon my goldsmith’s tools, and desire that he may learn the trade of some suitable person in Boston, and have ten pounds when he comes of age.”

The youth was accordingly placed with John Gray, a goldsmith of Boston, with whom he removed to New London, where Gray died in 1720.

To James Barret, an apprentice to Capt. Grignon, the will relinquishes the remainder of his time.

## CHAPTER XIX.

### THE ROGERENE EPISODE. PAPER CURRENCY.

THE Rogerenes, or followers of John Rogers, were a small religious sect that originated in the vicinity of New London before the year 1700. Their history does not belong to Norwich, and will be no further introduced than is necessary to give a clear statement of certain events that took place in the town on the 26th and 27th of July, 1725,—events of minor importance in themselves, but of considerable notoriety at the time. Both parties having made printed statements of the affair, we have the aid, or rather the perplexity, of opposite lights in reviewing the scene.

The Rogerenes esteemed all days alike in regard to sanctity. To *destroy priestcraft and the idolatry of Sunday*, were special objects of their leader's mission, and his disciples, at several distinct periods of enhanced zeal, devoted themselves to the same task. To produce any effect, aggressive movements were necessary, and they made various attempts to break up the worshiping assemblies of their neighbors. They were accustomed, on the Sabbath, to separate into small bands, and go through the country, entering the meeting-houses in time of divine service, and by various noises and other provocations, interrupting the worship. They made several visits to Dr. Lord's meeting-house, but that excellent man always treated them with great lenity. John Rogers himself, the founder of the sect, beset Dr. Lord one Sunday morning, as he came out of the house, to go to meeting, and followed him thither, inveighing and shouting against priestcraft, as was his usual custom. Just as the venerable minister reached the porch of the meeting-house, and taking off his hat displayed an august and graceful white wig, Rogers exclaimed in a loud voice, "Benjamin! Benjamin! dost thou think that they wear white wigs in heaven!"\*

After the death of their founder in 1721, there is no account of any Rogerene visit to Norwich, till Sunday, July 26, 1725, when a party of eight persons were arrested and committed to prison for traveling on the

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\* One of the Rogerene elders on horseback, passing through Norwich, saw a certain deacon with whom he was acquainted, in a field, mowing. Dismounting and leaning over the wall, he called aloud, "Deacon! will you stop mowing awhile, and argue?"



Sabbath. They were tried the next day. One of them was a woman, Sarah Culver by name, called by them a *singing sister*. They stated that they were on their way from Groton to Lebanon, to baptize a person, or see him baptized by others, as circumstances should be. One of their party, named Davis, they declared vested with apostolic commission and authority to preach and baptize. Some of this sect had previously been taken up in other parts of the county, and fined five shillings per head for breaking the Sabbath, and they now traveled in defiance of the law and its penalty, boasting that they could buy the idolators' Sabbaths for five shillings apiece. But on arriving at Norwich, they found, as Mr. Justice Backus observed, that they had *risen in price*, for, being taken before the said justice, they were sentenced to pay a fine of twenty shillings per head, or to be whipped ten or fifteen lashes each. Not being able to pay the fine, they were obliged to submit to the latter punishment.

According to tradition, sticks of prim were used, and one of the company had warm tar poured over his head and his hat put on in that state, as a reprisal for his contumacy in refusing to take off his hat in court. These are legendary exaggerations.\* The accounts published at the time say nothing of the tar, and they distinctly state that the strokes were inflicted with a whip-cord.\*

The party being released, proceeded to Lebanon, where the next Sabbath they were again arrested on a similar plea of desecrating the day, but their fines were paid for them by some compassionate citizens. They then challenged the ministers of Lebanon, Messrs. Platt and Williams, to a public debate, at which, says Mr. Backus, they were completely foiled.

The Hon. Joseph Jenks, deputy-governor of Rhode Island, took the part of the despised Rogerenes, and issued a proclamation respecting the arrest at Norwich, which he caused to be posted up in various parts of his own State, in order, as he stated, that the people might see what was to be expected from a Presbyterian government in case Connecticut should succeed in the efforts she was then making to obtain the jurisdiction over Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. In this document the case is briefly stated that a peaceable company of Rogerenes "were going on the First Day of the Week to a religious meeting at Lebanon in order to baptize, or see a person baptized and were all apprehended as malefactors and unmercifully whipt."

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\* It has been a current tradition that prim hedges were once common in Norwich, but that withs of prim being used to whip the Quakers, they began immediately to decay, and it has since been difficult to make the plants flourish. We can not ascertain, however, that the Quakers were ever arrested and punished in Norwich, except in the instance above related. Nor does it appear from any authentic source that a scene of *tarring and feathering*,—that odious exhibition of popular indignation,—was ever enacted within the limits of the town, either against the despised Quakers of old, or the defiant tories of the Revolution.

Joseph Backus, Esq., the justice that officiated on this occasion, issued a reply to the proclamation, in pamphlet form. He states that the traveling party timed their arrival in town so as to meet the people coming from their morning worship; that they called out loudly to some of them, and when brought before a magistrate, acknowledged that they knew it to be against the law to travel on that day, but that they did it in defiance of the law. The stripes, he said, did not exceed ten, except in the case of the most obstinate of them, viz., Davis, who received fifteen; that the instrument was a single cord, without a knot in it; and he adds:

“By their resolute choice they constrained me to order this punishment or disregard the law.”

“Moreover some of the people freely offered to some of them to pay their fine for them. But they refused the kindness with disdain, and saying in such significative expressions that they would not take up a pin from the table, or give the dust of their nails to be discharged, and would not miss of the stripes for a great sum.”

John Rogers, son of the founder of the sect, and one of the suffering party at Norwich, published a rejoinder to Mr. Backus. His statement is, that they were passing through Norwich, along the country road, in an orderly manner, and were onward the best part of a mile beyond the meeting-house, when they were arrested and made prisoners by a constable and a rude set of young men, who offered great abuse to some of the company.

He acknowledges that they traveled in defiance of the law, but it was a law “set up by man to prevent people from serving God according to their consciences.” The cord used, he says, was too large to admit of a knot; the wounds it inflicted were terrible, and the marks would remain in the bodies of the sufferers till the grave should hide them.

“The martyrs chose the flames as much as we chose the whip; for neither they nor we chose either the flames or the whip, but as we were compelled thereto by our cruel persecutors.”

In reference to their rejection of the proffered kindness of paying their fine, he says:

“Some at Norwich *talked* of paying the fine, but did not do it; but at Lebanon, the next week, under similar circumstances, they actually paid it.”\*

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\* The eight persons of this Rogerene party were John Rogers, John Bolles and Joseph Bolles of New London, John Culver, Andrew Davis, James Smith, John Waterhouse and Sarah Culver from Groton. They were going to Lebanon at the request of Mary Mann of that place, “who sent us word,” said John Rogers, “that she desired to be baptized by our Society.” She was baptized after they arrived in Lebanon, and a few days later they baptized Elisha Mann. On the 25th of August a public dispute was held at Lebanon, between the Rev. Mr. Whiting and Josiah Gates, a Sabbatarian, respecting the First-day Sabbath.



## PAPER CURRENCY.

Mr. Lord's salary had been fixed at £100 per annum. In 1726 a present was made him of £25, and the next year twelve contributions were granted him, to be taken up on the first Sabbath of every month. These gratuities were to compensate for the depreciation of the currency.

The first paper money, or Bills of credit, emitted in Connecticut, had the date of July 12, 1709. The emissions were repeated in small parcels, at intervals, afterwards. For many years no redundancy of the circulating medium was apparent, and the depreciation of the bills was of course trifling. The issues were generally employed to defray the expense of some warlike expedition, and were both a convenience and an advantage to the community. When the bills came back to the treasury in payment of taxes, they were destroyed.

The greatest difficulty attending the issue of these bills, was the ease with which they could be altered or counterfeited. In 1735, so large an impression of counterfeit bills was in circulation, that the Assembly ordered an issue with a new stamp, to the value of £25,000, to be exchanged for the old ones.

In 1740, on account of the war with Spain, bills were emitted to the amount of £45,000, and several smaller sums afterward. These were called Bills of the New Tenor; all before this took the designation of Old Tenor.

Until the emission of the New Tenor, the credit of the old bills was tolerably supported. The depreciation now ran on with rapid strides, and confusion in accounts, perplexity and want of confidence in the dealings of man with man, suspension of activity and pecuniary distress were the consequences. The clashing of old and new tenor rendered the currency mazy and uncertain. Prices were greatly enhanced, but fluctuating; impositions frequent, and speculation triumphed over honest industry. It was a difficult thing to graduate price to value, with a currency so vague and fluctuating. At this time a bill of twenty shillings would scarcely balance an ounce of coined silver, though professing on the face of it to be equal to three ounces, silver being reckoned at 6s. 8d. per ounce.\*

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\* The exportation of sterling coin from Great Britain was prohibited by acts of Parliament, and this coin never became the common currency of New England. The place was supplied by Spanish coinage. Accounts were kept in pounds, shillings, and pence, but Spanish dollars, or pieces-of-eight, as they were then called, though only four shillings and six pence sterling, were valued in the New England colonies at six shillings. In 1683, the General Court of Connecticut ordered that all pieces-of-eight, Mexico and pillar pieces, should pass at six shillings apiece. Pieces-of-eight were identical with the Spanish milled dollar, and received their name from being of the value of eight *rialls*, or nine-penny-pieces. Most of the specie currency of New England consisted of Spanish coins and the Massachusetts pine-tree money of three valuations, shilling, six-pence, and three-pence.

In 1741, Mr. Lord had an allowance of £200 in addition to his nominal salary. After 1746, the fixed rate of O. T. currency was 45s. to a dollar of N. T. 6s.—that is, seven and a half to one.

It may be interesting to note the prices of a few articles in the early part of the century, when trade was carried on by barter, by specie, and occasionally paper money, but before the latter had lost any of its nominal value.

Wheat, 5s. per bushel.	Cheese, 4d. per lb.
Rye, 3s.       “	Tallow, 5d.
Indian corn, 3s.   “	Sugar, 6d. and 8d.
Oats, 1s. 6d.     “	Molasses, 2s. 4d. per gallon.
Turnips, 1s.     “	Quire of paper, 2s.
Milk, 1½d. per quart.	Pane of glass, 2s. 3d.
Wool, 1s. 4d. per lb.	Pair of shoes, 5s. and 5s. 6d.
Beef, 2d. per lb.	Day's work of laborer, 2s. and 3s.
Pork, 3d. and 3½d.	Day's work with a team, 6s.
Butter, 6d.	Town Clerk's salary, £1 10s.
A bowl of toddy, 6d.	A bell-rope, 3s.
A meal of victuals at a tavern, 6d. or 8d.	
A barber's charge for once shaving, 2d.—a year's shaving, £1.	
“A fals tail,” (copied from a barber's account,) 3s.	

The fluctuation of the currency is strikingly displayed in the varying expenditure of the town.

In 1736 the town expenses were £84, of which one item was a charge of Dr. Perkins for attendance on the poor, £24 1s. Yet the next year, the whole amount of expenditure, including the doctor's bill, amounted to only £14.

In 1738 the hitherto unexampled sum of £105 was expended by the town, but nearly half of it was consumed in prosecuting the law-suit with Preston respecting boundaries, which was still left undecided.

Town expenses in 1744, £120.

In 1750, £187.17.9. 1751, £171.3.

In 1752, £751. A large proportion of this sum was for laying out highways.

In 1753, £286. 1754, £351.

In 1755, £887. This included the sum paid for seventy pounds of powder and twenty hundred-weight of lead to supply the town with ammunition.

1756, £100. 1757, £51. 1758, £14. 1759, £22.

Down to 1730, the usual rate levied for town expenses was a half-penny on the pound. In 1740, it was three farthings; in 1752, four pence; in 1754, seven pence. In 1757, it went back to three farthings.

The burden of a depreciating currency falls unequally upon a community. Clergymen, orphans, widows, charitable funds, all that depend on



annuities and salaries, suffer from the diminution of income. Trade and all kinds of business depending on credit and extension, become confused and restricted. Clergymen are peculiarly liable to suffer loss. If there is a disposition to wrong them, they have few means of redress; but it is evident that in justice they ought not to be compelled to receive in payment of their salary, bills of credit beyond their current value.

In the case of Dr. Lord, equity prevailed, and an annual compensation was for several years made to him in order to balance the low value of money. In 1753, he received £850 as an equivalent for £100 lawful money. The bellman's salary was then £40 per annum.

This uncertain currency was not confined to Connecticut. The other New England colonies suffered in like manner. In Boston, besides the Old and New Tenor currency, they had "Land Bank Money," a kind of Old Tenor bill first issued in 1714, "Province bills," and "Last Emission" paper.

The reimbursement granted the Colonies by Parliament for the capture of Cape Breton, being paid in silver, was the happy occasion of bringing back a silver medium. The colonial authorities called in their bills and exchanged them for silver. In Massachusetts the reimbursement consisted of 635,000 ounces of silver and ten tons of copper, which was received in September, 1749.\* This being the largest share, and Massachusetts the earliest to be relieved from the incubus, it obtained for a time the enviable designation of the Hard Money Colony.

In 1751, Parliament enacted a law prohibiting the American Colonies from issuing Bills of Credit, except for the current expenses of government, or in case of invasion by an enemy, and these were never to be considered legal tender for debts. This prohibition, with the supply of silver that had been received, soon put an end to the paper money system which had so long perplexed and weakened the country.

The Connecticut bills disappeared by degrees. Several years elapsed before they were all considered as redeemed. A small amount of interest-bearing bills was issued in 1755, and occasionally afterward; but they suffered no depreciation, and were soon redeemed.

In 1757, the currency was flowing once more in its old channel. Mr. Lord's salary was reduced to £66 13s. 4d. lawful money, and twelve contributions; the bellman's to £3 10s.

There were no more emissions of paper money in Connecticut until January, 1775, when the Revolution resorted to bills of credit for its support, and the flood of Continental currency began to spread over the land.

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\* Great quantities of the old paper bills were burnt by a committee of the Legislature, and the plates destroyed. The reimbursement was in whole and half pistareens, at the value of 14½d. the pistareen.

Felt's Mass. Currency, p. 124.

## CHAPTER XX.

### ANIMALS.

IN addition to droves of neat cattle and swine, and flocks of sheep, the inhabitants at one time turned their attention to the keeping of goats. Herds of these troublesome animals roamed at large, until they became an intolerable nuisance. No law of the colony then existed for their restraint. Joseph Tracy, in 1722, having taken up a herd of fifty-four goats trespassing upon his land, impounded them; whereupon their owner, Joseph Backus, brought a suit against him before Mr. Justice Bushnell, which was decided as follows:

“This Court having heard and considered the pleas on both sides in this action, and also the law quoted to, and finding in the last paragraph in said law it is said, ‘all neat cattle and horses taken &c. shall pay 8*d.* per head, and swine 12*d.* and sheep 1*d.* per head,’ and nothing in said law concerning goats, this Court cannot find any thing allowed in the law for impounding of goats, and therefore this Court consider that the plaintiff shall recover of the defendant his cost of prosecution.”

Nothing further appears upon record respecting goats, but the following action of the town, which relates to an act of the Legislature, by which goats had been made impoundable:

“At a General Court at Hartford May 15, 1725, the representatives of Norwich having laid before this Court that the act respecting Goats, October last, is very grievous to their town, this Court grants liberty to said town to except themselves out of said act:—This town do now by their vote, except themselves out of said act.”

The lands upon the Yantic, at the time of the settlement, were greatly infested with wolves and foxes. Long after the settlement, bears or wolves were occasionally seen, coming from the woods towards their old haunts, and on finding themselves near the habitations of man, they have rushed forward, terrified and causing terror, till they found a secure refuge in the uncleared swamps that still in some places skirted the river.

In the early stages of the settlement, therefore, the craft of the hunter, the trapper and the sportsman was pursued from necessity instead of pastime. A wolf-hunt was not an uncommon winter sport until after 1700. The report that howls had been heard, issuing from some lonely swamp



or thicket, or that a flock of sheep had been attacked, would soon bring out an intrepid band of sportsmen, eager for adventure.

Depredations upon the fold and the barn-yard were often made, not only by the animals named, but by another popularly called the Woollaneag,\* or Sampson Fox; the same animal that figured in the annals of witchcraft under the name of *the Black Cat*. Naturalists call it the Fisher or Pekan, [*Mustela Canadensis*.] It is still occasionally seen in the wilder parts of New England. But these and all the smaller mischievous quadrupeds were in a few years either entirely driven away, or reduced so greatly in number as to be seldom troublesome. Birds and snakes were not so readily vanquished, and it was necessary to offer rewards and bounties for their destruction.

A half-penny and at some periods a penny per head was granted for each and every blackbird and crow killed, their heads to be exhibited by the claimant to one of the townsmen; and two pence apiece for all rattlesnakes killed between the first of April and the fifteenth of May, the tail and a joint of the bone to be received as evidence. The first fifteen days of May was the season generally appropriated to hunting the rattlesnake, and the people turned out for this purpose in large parties.

Notwithstanding the smallness of the bounty, so many birds and snakes were killed every year that it became a considerable item in the town expenses. Twenty snakes and a hundred birds were at one time brought in by a single person. The bounty for killing a wolf was 10s. 6d. (\$1.75.) This appears to have been claimed but once after 1700, viz., by Samuel Lothrop.

No better haunts for rattlesnakes could be found than among the rocks and glens of Norwich. Imagination still associates the idea of these formidable reptiles with many a dark ravine and sunny ledge. There are certain rocks and declivities that even yet are known by such names as Rattlesnake-den and Rattlesnake-ridge. These serpents grew here to the size of a man's wrist, and to the length of three and four feet.

Waweekus Hill was famous for these reptiles. It is a popular tale that a cunning player on the violin once went to that hill with his instrument, and enticed a large rattlesnake to follow him into the town street, fascinated by his music.

Another tradition is that an adventurous lover, returning home late one evening from a visit to the lady of his heart, was both snapped at by a wolf and hissed at by a rattlesnake, just as he passed through a turn-stile near the place since known as Strong's corner. This young man, whose name was Waterman, lived above the meeting-house, and the lady he visited, below the Little Plain. To walk two miles at that period, through

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\* Woollaneag is the name given to this animal by the Connecticut Indians. Some tribes call it Warraneag.

thicket and swamp, to make an evening visit, and back again at midnight, was an undertaking almost equal in heroism to that of swimming over the Hellespont.

A tremendous host of these baneful reptiles sallied forth every spring from the ravines and clefts of the rocks, to bask on the ledges or glide through the green pastures and meadows below. It is appalling only to read the dry statistical returns made by the serpent-hunters to the selectmen, and consider the number of heads and rattles, bones and skins, brought by them for vouchers and cast down for the bounty. How strong then must have been the nerves of those who went forth to do battle with these coiling monsters, attacking them in their nests, or with still more hazard meeting them warm and hissing on the rocky slopes, with their venom at its height and all their lithe articulations exalted to the point of furious attack and desperate encounter.

Though the rattlesnake is considered a slow-moving animal that seldom bites unless first trodden upon or struck, he is furious in his charge. The power of fascination, currently, but no doubt falsely, ascribed to him, and the extreme virulence of his poison, producing death in some instances, give a terrific interest to the details of the snake-hunter.

In 1720 the bounty was doubled to 4*d*. per head, and 76 charged that season to the town; 28 by Moses Woodworth. In 1721 the number slaughtered was 160; the widow Woodworth presenting the spoils of 23, and David Knight, Jr., 28. The next year 123 were brought in, Stephen Woodworth claiming the bounty for 48. In 1724, 69 were brought in, and of these David Wentworth was credited 29.

In 1728 the number was only 46; but of these, nine were *rattlesnakes*, destroyed by widow Smith.

1730. Voted, that whosoever shall kill a rattlesnake within this township at any time within one year ensuing, except in the three summer months, and produce one joint of the bone and its tail shall have two shillings for each snake so killed.

This law was the next year declared in force till otherwise ordered.

Under the stimulus of this premium, many fierce old rattlers were hunted out and slaughtered. In 1731 the number claiming the bounty was nearly 300: in 1732, over 100; in 1733, 174; in 1734, 63; in 1735, 54.

Dec. 15, 1735. Voted to pay four shillings apiece for rattlesnake's next year. No pay to be given unless the snake be shown within 24 hours to the selectmen or to two indifferent neighbors.

In 1736, 112 snakes were presented, and upwards of £20 paid in bounty. The following is a memorandum of one of the selectmen, of those exhibited to him:



May, 1736. An account of rattlesnakes tails brought to me, Joseph Perkins.

Jacob Perkins brought 7 tails.

Thomas Pettis " 5 "

Samuel Lawrence brought 3 rattles.

Abijah Fitch " 1 "

John Bingham " 3 "

Robert Kinsman " 4 "

Joshua Hutchins " 23 "

Ezra Lothrop " 2 "

In 1737, only 21 were destroyed. In 1738, 78; of these, 27 were brought in by Jacob Hazen.

In 1739 the bounty was raised to ten shillings a head for all killed, except in the months of June, July and August; provided that the killer took oath that he went out for no other purpose than to destroy them.

This did not produce any large number of victims; the reptile race was evidently on the decline. A few were annually brought in, but they diminished in number from year to year.

We find no town action on the subject of rattlesnakes after the year 1764, at which time the bounty of twenty shillings, old tenor, was commuted into six shillings lawful money.

A solitary but noted serpent of this species, that had long been known to haunt a high ridge of land in the central part of the township, and which was prematurely considered at the time the *last rattler* of Norwich, was destroyed in 1786. His traces had been often observed, and his haunt sought, but without success. He dwelt under a large rock, and his hole had an outlet on both sides, with a branch in another direction to which he could retreat, so that it was a work of some difficulty to outwit him. But he was at last both "scotch'd" and killed.

Since that period, at considerable intervals of date, here and there, a rattlesnake has been discovered and destroyed. One was killed upon the farm of Mr. Zephaniah Lathrop, May 27, 1801, which measured five feet two inches in length, and had twenty-one rattles; supposed therefore to be twenty-one years old.

The genuine rattlesnake is now probably extinct in this neighborhood.

The red-snake, vulgarly called the rattlesnake's mate, also abounded in Norwich, and is still occasionally found. This species of snake is very beautiful in color, being of a chocolate or nut-brown, curiously barred and mottled with changeable hues. In the poison darted from its fangs, it is only second to the rattlesnake. It gives no warning, but when roused, draws up, leaps, and bites, in the space of two seconds, and it is said, will reach the flesh through a thin boot. The wound is followed by immediate pain, swelling, and great inflammation. Instances have occurred in which it has become serious, by neglect, improper treatment, and exposure to

cold and wet, breaking forth afresh every year in the snake season, and causing lameness or other infirmities.

This species is sometimes called the deaf adder, and is probably identical with the copper-head, [*boa contortrix*.] It is still a vivacious inhabitant of the rocky woodlands; its thick head and large yellow eyes being the dreaded image that haunts the sunny ledges in the months of May and June. Several have been killed in the rocky pastures of the town-plot since 1860, and even in 1864 a nest of them was found and destroyed on the rocky highland in the rear of the Free Academy. The largest was nearly three feet in length, and is preserved in the museum of the Academy.

The black-snake of the present day is comparatively a harmless creature; but stories are current of these reptiles having attacked children in the whortleberry-fields, or haymakers in the meadows, and wound themselves about the body and throat, so as to produce suffocation. When Waweekus Hill was first cleared, the workmen were greatly annoyed by them. There is a tradition to the following effect: A party of laborers were out on the hill at work, and one of them being employed at some distance from the others, his companions were suddenly alarmed by his cries and shrieks for help. They ran to his assistance, and found him rolling on the ground with several black snakes on his body. He stated after his rescue, that these reptiles came upon him out of a thicket, with such fury as to put it out of his power to defend himself. They wound about his legs, lashed them together, bound up his arms, and were near his throat when his friends came to his assistance. No attempt will be made to prove the truth of this story, but doubtless it is as well founded as that of Laocoön. Supposing the man to have been asleep when the reptiles swathed his limbs, it is not absolutely incredible.

One species of black snake, which formerly infested this region, was called ring-snake, or *racer*, and was known by a white or yellow ring around the neck. They would erect the head seven or eight inches from the ground, and in this attitude, with tongue out and eyes glaring, run with the swiftness of a horse. They were bold, fierce, and dangerous. It was this species that had the credit of swathing the limbs of its victims, but these stories are now regarded as entirely fabulous.

In later days, even down to the present generation, black-snakes have been found in the uncultivated or sparsely settled parts of Norwich, and in the more retired towns of the vicinity, in such numbers and of such magnitude as to render almost credible the wildest traditions of the olden time concerning them. In April, 1810, 28 black-snakes were killed at Lisbon, within the space of an acre and a quarter, the total measurement of which was 114 feet. From a single nest or burrow of these animals, at Griswold, in 1844, no less than 63 were extracted, in a half torpid



state, varying in length from three to nearly six feet.\* Similar instances occur from time to time, and occasionally find their way into print. The following notice will bring this article down to the latest date:

“A copperhead snake three feet long was killed by two young men in the woods near this city, May 21, 1865.”†

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\* Newspaper items.

† Norwich Bulletin.

## CHAPTER XXI.

### BEGINNINGS AT THE LANDING.

THE original Landing-place was below the Falls, at the head of the Yantic basin or cove, where Elderkin's mill was situated. As trade increased, and positions lower down were occupied for business purposes, the term *Landing Place* was transferred to the point where the rivers unite, and the upper station—the original Indian canoe-place—was distinguished as the *old* Landing-place.

What is now Norwich City, or Chelsea Society, with its crowded population, its work-shops, ware-houses, stores of merchandize, its terraced streets, cupolas, spires, dwelling-houses, rising in tiers, line above line, was at first known only as Weequaw's Hill, Rocky Point, and sometimes Fort Hill, from which it is inferred that an Indian fort or stone inclosure once crowned its summit.

For the space of seventy years after the settlement, the greater part of Chelsea was technically a sheep-walk, belonging to the inhabitants of the east end of the town, and used by them for the pasturage of cattle. The reservation extended from No-man's Acre to the mouth of the Shetucket, and was inclosed with a general fence. A cartway through it was allowed, and in 1680, "a pair of bars" connected with this cartway was maintained by the town, near the Shetucket, and another pair below the house of John Reynolds. The whole space between Yantic cove and the Shetucket was a wilderness of rocks, woods and swamps, with only here and there a cow-path, or a sheep-track around the hills; where the trunk of a fallen tree thrown over a brook or chasm served in lieu of bridge. Not only in the spring floods, but in common heavy rains, a great part of East Chelsea, and all the lower, or Water street, up to the ledge of rocks on which the buildings upon the north side of that street are based, were overflowed; and even in the dry season these parts of the town were little better than swamps. What are now only moist places, and slender rills, were then ponds, and broad, impetuous brooks.

In January, 1684, a committee was appointed to lay out and bound for the town's use sufficient land for a public landing-place and a suitable highway connected with it; after which they passed the following restrictive decree:



April, 1684. "It is agreed and voated that the rest of the ungranted and unlayed out land at the mouth of Showtuck shall be and remain for the benefit of cattle watering and never to be disposed of without the consent of eight or ten of the familys at the east end of the towne."

It was not long, however, before this act became a dead letter. Sites at the water's edge were soon in great demand for commercial purposes. These were prudently doled out by the town in plots of three or four rods each. In 1686, Capt. James Fitch, the first of these grantees, was allowed sufficient land near the water side to accommodate a wharf and warehouse. Not long afterward, Capt. Caleb Bushnell obtained a similar grant. These facilities were near the mouth of Yantic Cove. It was here that the wharfing, building, and commercial enterprise of Norwich Landing began.

1692. A Committee appointed by the town to go with John Elderkin and to state a highway to the old Landing place, with conveniency also for a ware-house.

October, 1694. Mr. Mallat, a French gentleman, desiring liberty of the town that he might build a vessel, or vessels, somewhere upon our river, the town grant the said Mr. Mallat liberty to build and also grant him the liberty of the common on the east side of Showtucket river to cut timber for building.

Mallat's ship-yard is supposed to have been at the Point. It was not long occupied, and the fee of course reverted to the town.

In 1707, a vote was passed of the following emphatic tenor:

"No more land to be granted at the salt water and no way shut up that leads to the salt water."

The first masters of vessels at the Landing, of whom we obtain any knowledge, were Captains Kelley and Norman. These, in 1715, were engaged in the Barbadoes trade.

May 11, 1715. Capt. Kelley in the Norwich sloop sailed for Barbadoes.

Sept. 8. Capt. Kelley sailed for Barbadoes.

Dec. 13, 1716. Capt. Norman sailed.\*

Capt. Kelley very soon established a regular ship-yard at the Landing, the town granting him the necessary facilities.

Jan. 10, 1716-7. Joseph Kelley, shipwright, has free liberty to build vessels on the Point where he is now building, the town to have the use of his wharf.

[This grant was not revoked till 1751.]

The same year Caleb Bushnell applied for a situation by the water-side convenient for building vessels, which was granted by the following vote:

Dec. 3, 1717. The town grants to Caleb Bushnell 20 feet square upon ye water upon the west side of the rockie Point at ye Landing place.

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\* Diary kept at New London.

Between 1721 and 1724, similar grants of "20 feet square on the west side of Rockie point," were made to Simon Lothrop, Joshua and James Huntington, and Daniel Tracy, a sufficiency for the town's use being reserved on which they were not to encroach. These were all enterprising young men, just entering into business. Simon Lothrop afterward purchased the Elderkin rights on Yantic Cove and at the Falls.

April 20, 1723. The town grants liberty to Capt. Caleb Bushnell to set up and maintain two sufficient cart gates across the highway that goeth to the Little fort.

Feb. 25, 1724. Voted to build a town wharf at the Landing place.

Liberty is granted to Lieut. Simon Lothrop to build a wharf at the Landing place at his own charge provided it shall be free to all mortals.

1734. Permission granted to Lieut. Simon Lothrop to build a ware-house on the side hill opposite his dwelling-house, 30 feet by 20, to hold the same during the town's pleasure.

The limited extent of these grants shows that they were highly prized and that but few such privileges could be obtained. A narrow margin of level land, at the base of water-washed cliffs, comprised the whole accommodation.

With the exception of these footholds upon the water's edge, the land lay in common. Along the Cove and around the Falls the woods and waters were reeking with rank life, both animal and vegetable. The rock ledges were the haunts of innumerable serpents; the shores were populous with water-fowl; the river with shoals of fish. The young people from the farms around Norwich, when haying was over, came in parties to the Landing to wander over the hills, eat oysters, and take a trip down the river in canoes or sail-boats.

In 1718, there was a division of proprietary lands, called the forty-acre division. In 1726, the undivided lands that remained were mainly comprised in two sheep-walks. A public meeting was called, in which the names of the proprietors of each were distinctly declared and recorded, in order to prevent, if possible, all future "strifts and law-suits." The East Sheep-walk, of 900 acres, more or less, was divided into shares of twenty acres each, and ratified and confirmed to forty-two proprietors, mentioned by name, or to those who claimed under them. The West Sheep-walk, by estimation 700 acres, was in like manner divided and confirmed to thirty-seven proprietors.

Rev. John Woodward and Rev. Benjamin Lord were admitted on the footing of original proprietors, as were also the representatives of the earliest class of accepted inhabitants, viz., Bushnell, Elderkin, Roath and Rood of the east end, Abel and Armstrong of the west. To these were added Moses Fargo of the west and Edward King of the east, each allowed a half-share, making 79 in all, who were acknowledged as repre-



sentatives of the original grantees of the town-plot. From this division, it was understood that farmers out of the town-plot, and all persons not claimants under the first grantees, were excluded.

Israel Lothrop and James Huntington were the town agents in making the division of the East Sheep-walk. The lots extended along the water from the Shetucket ferry to the cove, reserving a highway through them two rods wide. A second tier was laid out in the rear of these; and so on. Each share was divided into tenths, and the tenths into eighths, and distributed apparently by lot. It is expressed in the records by *making a pitch*, as thus: "Capt. Bushnell made his pitch for his portion of the sheep walk" at such a place.

The titles to land in this part of Norwich are derived from these 42 proprietors of the East end, and the dates begin at 1726. After this division, houses and inhabitants increased rapidly, and in the course of a few years Rocky Point became a flourishing hamlet and trading-post, called in common parlance *The Landing*, but gradually acquiring the name of New Chelsey, or Chelsea Society.

The earliest householders at the Landing, of whose residence there we find any certain account, were Daniel Tracy, Benajah Bushnell, and Nathaniel Backus. A little later, Capt. Joseph Tracy and Capt. Benajah Leffingwell were substantial inhabitants, and Caleb Whitney kept a public house. Boating was brisk in the river, and small vessels were built and sent away for sale.

Among those who were efficient in opening avenues of trade and bringing business to the new port, none were more conspicuous than Capt. John Williams and Capt. Joshua Huntington. The former resided with his family at Poquetannock, and the latter in the town-plot, but each had a wharf and ware-house at the Landing, and here was their place of business. Capt. Huntington occupied the Point, near Kelley's ship-yard. It was by heirship from him that this locality went into the Bill family,—Capt. Ephraim Bill having married his only daughter, Lydia.

Great are the changes that have been made around the water-line of Norwich port. All the sharp angles and projecting rocks, the trickling streams and gullies, have disappeared. Central wharf spreads out far in advance of the old town wharf and the water-line where Fitch and Bushnell had their first *conveniences*; and the granite ridge at whose base Kelley built his coasting-craft, and the Huntingtons, Bills and others had their warehouses, has been leveled to a platform occupied by the freight-depot and other accommodations of the railroad.

The division into freeholds gave a powerful impetus to the growth of the Landing. Trade became suddenly the presiding genius of the place. Those merchants who had been so fortunate as to obtain situations upon the water's edge, entered at once into commercial pursuits. From a

report prepared by authority in Connecticut, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners for Trade and<sup>t</sup> Plantations, probably befor 1730, we learn that four sloops were at that time owned in Norwich and engaged in the West India and coasting trade, viz.:

Slp. Martha and Elizabeth, -	-	-	40 tons.
" Success, -	-	-	40 "
" Olive-Branch, -	-	-	25 "
" Mary, -	-	-	20 "

Not long afterward the Norwich traders sent a sloop and a *schooner* to Ireland. As these we suppose to have been their first adventures across the ocean, every item relating to them is interesting. They probably sailed in company, but the schooner returned without her consort.

7 Nov. 1732. "The Norwich scooner, Nath: Shaw master, came in from Ireland." [Hempstead's Diary.]

The sloop was under the charge of Capt. Absalom King, and appears to have been owned by himself and those who sailed with him. They sold the craft in Ireland, probably in accordance with the plan of their voyage, as vessels were then frequently built in the river, where timber was plenty, and sent elsewhere for a market. The crew embarked for home in the schooner with Capt. Shaw, but during the voyage five out of the fifteen persons on board died of the small pox. Among the victims was Capt. King, who died in mid ocean Sept. 3, 1732.

Capt. Absalom King came to Norwich from Southold, Long Island, and had been for several years in the West India trade. His wife was Hannah, daughter of John Waterman. His youthful widow married, Nov. 8, 1733, Benedict Arnold.

This is the earliest notice that we find at Norwich of Benedict Arnold, —a Rhode Island emigrant, whose name, when afterwards borne by his son, became synonymous with treason and apostacy. No intimation is given of the causes that brought him to Norwich; but he appears to have been at first a seaman, and it is not improbable that some connection with Capt. King in that capacity first introduced him to the town and afterwards obtained for him the favorable notice of the bereaved wife. He and his brother Oliver are both distinguished by the title of *Captain*.

In 1740, a memorial was presented to the town by Joshua Abel, John Hutchins, and others, praying for a convenient highway to be opened to

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\* Hinman's Antiquities, p. 352. The date of the document is not given, but it was undoubtedly between 1720 and 1730. The whole number of vessels in the colony was 42, the largest of which was a brigantine of 80 tons, owned at New London. They were mostly small sloops. New Haven and New London had each five; Hartford and Norwich, four.



the Landing. This was strenuously opposed by the landholders on the line of the proposed highway, and rejected by the town at that time. But a few years later the object was happily accomplished, and two convenient avenues were opened, one on each side of the central hill. The two pent highways that had been previously used, that on the east through land of Col. Hezekiah Huntington, and the one on the west through land of Col. Simon Lothrop, were exchanged for streets laid out through the same lands, but more direct in course, and left open for public use. These improvements were sanctioned by the consent of all the parties concerned.

The eastern avenue thus opened, coincided with Crescent and a part of Union streets, terminating at the house of Nathaniel Backus in Union, not far from the corner of Main street. The western avenue coincided with the greater part of Washington street, and ended at "Capt. Bushnell's old ware-house." The committee for making these improvements consisted of William Morgan, Hezekiah Huntington, Philip Turner, and Joseph and Simon Tracy.

In 1750, Daniel Lathrop, Nathan Stedman and Capt. Philip Turner were appointed a committee to open a highway by the water-side, connecting the above-named streets. This was the first laying out of Water street.

After this, "the old highway over Waweecos Hill, between the Little Plain and Landing Place," was seldom used, and Capt. Benajah Bushnell obtained permission to enclose it, on condition of maintaining convenient bars for people to pass.

The Little Plain,—so called in distinction from the Great Plain, in the southern part of the town toward Mohegan,—was at this time private property, included in grants to the early settlers, with no part open to the public except the streets above mentioned leading to the Landing.

In making these highway improvements and in other works of public interest requiring public spirit and skillful management, Capt. Turner and Nathan Stedman were zealous and persevering agents. These were comparatively new inhabitants. Stedman was an attorney, son of John Stedman of Lyme, and not of the Hampton family of Stedmans. After a few years residence in Norwich, he removed to Ashford. Philip Turner spent the remainder of his short career in the town, and his dust is mingled with its soil.

Dec. 1748. It is ordered that warnings for town meetings shall for the future be set up at the Landing place on some post to be provided by the inhabitants there.

A sign-post was accordingly set up at Mr. Peter Lanman's corner, as the most central and conspicuous situation.

1751. Voted that the district for highways at Chelsea be divided as follows—Beginning at the water, south of the westerly corner of Daniel Tracy Jr's house at the Land-

ing place, thence a straight line to where the highway goes across Waweecus hill, thence to the N. E. corner of John Bliss's land—thence a straight line to the parting of the paths on the Little Plain, at Oliver Arnold's corner—thence a straight line to the N. W. corner of Joshua Prior's dwelling house.\*

The common lands and flats upon the *Cove*, extending as far up as "Elijah Lathrop's Grist Mills," were laid out in 1760 or near that period. The shares were divided into tenths, and each tenth into eight several parcels or lots, as the sheep-walks had been.

From the General List of 1757, it appears that there were then eighty-seven resident proprietors of rateable estate in "the society of New Chel-sy," and twenty-five non-residents.

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\* "Oliver Arnold's corner" was at the head of the plain, just where the streets part at the present day. Joshua Prior's dwelling-house is supposed to have been near Col. Huntington's oil-mill.



## CHAPTER XXII.

### COMMERCE AND THE FRENCH WAR.

THE year 1760 may be taken as the era when the commerce of Norwich, which at two distinct periods, before and after the war, became important, received its first great impulse. A foresight of this prosperity was obtained by the fathers of the town, in 1751, when they made the following declaration :

“Whereas, the town did formerly grant to Mr. Joseph Kelley, shipwright, to build vessels at the Landing-place, where he is now building, during the town’s pleasure, and would give him twelve months notice, do now declare that their will and pleasure, as to his building in said place, is at an end, the place being much wanted for public improvement, and do now give him notice thereof accordingly, and order the selectmen to notify him by sending him a copy of this act.”

From this period onward, the interest in navigation continued steadily to increase. John Rockwell of Preston, who died in 1753, refers in his will to “my vessel now at sea,” and occasional glimpses are obtained of sloops and freight-boats, with now and then a schooner plying up and down the river. In the “New London Summary,” the first newspaper issued in this part of the colony, which began in 1758, advertisements of the Norwich vessels were frequently inserted. As in August, 1760 :—“For Menis or Chignecto, the sloop *Defiance*, Obadiah Ayer, master ;” also, “The sloop *Ann*, Stephen Calkins, master, lying at Norwich Landing, ready for freight or passengers.”

Nova Scotia was then open to emigrants, and speculation was busy with its lands. Farms and townships were thrown into the market, and adventurers were eager to take possession of the vacated seats of the exiled Acadians.

By the treaty of peace in 1763, this territory was confirmed to the English. The provincial government caused it to be distributed into towns and sections, and lots were offered to actual settlers on easy terms. The inhabitants of the eastern part of Connecticut, and several citizens of Norwich in particular, entered largely into these purchases, as they did also into the purchases, made at the same period, of land on the Delaware river. The proprietors held their meetings at the town-house, in Norwich.

and many persons of even small means were induced to become subscribers, in the expectation of bettering their fortunes.

The townships of Dublin, Horton, Falmouth, Cornwallis and Amherst were settled in part by Connecticut emigrants. Sloops were sent from Norwich and New London with provisions and passengers. One of these in a single trip conveyed 137 settlers from New London county. The second Capt. Robert Denison was among the emigrants.

Norwich, as well as other towns in Connecticut, was taxed with the support of a certain number of the French Neutrals, a harmless and much-abused people, who in the year 1755 were driven from their seats in Acadia or Nova Scotia by their English conquerors, and forced to take refuge in New England. Many of them subsequently returned to Canada. Capt. Richard Leffingwell, in the brig Pitt, carried 240 of these French peasants with their priest to Quebec in 1767.

A back country of some extent made its deposits in Norwich, and its citizens were induced to enter largely into commercial affairs. Chelsea was their port, and instead of exhibiting, as heretofore, nothing but ship-yards and ware-houses, fishermen's cabins and sailors' cottages, it now began to show some respectable buildings. Let us suppose ourselves walking through its streets about this period. We might see lying at the wharves, perhaps departing or entering, the coasting sloops, *Defiance* and *Ann*; the *London* packet, Ebenezer Fitch, master; the Norwich packet, Capt. Thomas Fanning; the brig *Two Brothers*, Capt. Asa Waterman; sloop *Betsey*, Capt. William Billings; the *Nancy*, Capt. Uriah Rogers; the *Charming Sally*, Capt. Matthew Perkins, &c.

Here is the mercantile establishment (1765) of Jacob DeWitt, who has just settled in the place; that of Gershom Breed, (whose shipping-store, then newly-erected, is still extant and now occupied by his grandson); that of John Baker Brimmer, who keeps a little of every thing, and gives "cash for ox-horns, old pewter and hopps;" that of Ebenezer Colburn, iron-monger and cutler, at the sign of the Black Horse; that of Isaiah Tiffany, who keeps "ribbons, fans, calicoes, lawns and china-ware, just imported from London;" and that of Nathaniel Backus, Jr., at the corner where is now the Norwich Bank. This was the most conspicuous position in Chelsea. The step-stone at the door, broad and high, served for a horse-block, where females from the country, who came into town for shopping, mounted and dismounted from their horses.

Some of the merchants, from the first beginnings of their commerce, imported goods directly from Great Britain, either in their own vessels, or in packages landed at Boston and New York and consigned to them. The invoice value ranged only from a few hundred to three or four thousand pounds each, annually, but the fact displays a creditable degree of enterprise and commercial aptitude. From 1760, onward to the Revolu-



tion, there were four or five of these importing merchants in the place. During the long wars with France and Spain, the risks at sea from capture were great, and insurance ran high,—varying from five to fifteen guineas per cent. The latter high rate was demanded in 1758, and again in 1762. In ordinary times it was but one and a half or two per cent. After 1770, the importations increased in amount, and the Norwich importers usually owned the vessel and paid the insurance themselves. The goods were consigned direct, and the duties paid at New London.

The invoices comprised many articles that might easily have been manufactured at home, but for the parliamentary restraints. Felt hats, for instance, were then a common article of importation, the colonists being forbidden to make them, even for their own use. Nails, paper, loaf-sugar, snuff, spices, were all imported from Europe. Ribbons, crapes and laces, though enormously high, were in demand, and we find also upon the invoices such articles of fancy as “Barleycorn necklaces,” “London dolls,” and “London lettered gartering.” Printed linens, chintzes and damasks made a great show upon these old counters. Plain linens were staple articles, imported largely, and occasionally a piece of Holland cotton intimates the beginning of a trade in cotton cloth.

At this period the best assortments were all up town, and the ladies of Chelsea were as much accustomed to go thither to do their shopping, that is, if dry goods or fancy articles were wanted, as the ladies of the town now are to go to Chelsea.

The goods in the retail stores of that day were somewhat oddly assorted. For instance, one man advertised sheep’s-wool, codfish, West India products, and an assortment of European dry goods.

“N. B. As the subscriber has an interest in a still-house at Chelsea, he expects to have New England rum constantly to sell.”

This was rather a descent from the usual select phraseology which offered for sale, “Choice Geneva just from Amsterdam.”

The nomenclature of dress-goods was as diversified as at the present day. In addition to the general terms of satins, modes, crapes, calicoes, and broadcloth, we find hum-hum, wild-bore, elasticks, moreens, durants, calimancos, tammys, royal-rib, shalloons, erminetts, stockinetts, satinetts, russeletts, German serge, duffles, taffety.

William and Peter Lanman, Jeremiah Clement, merchant, and afterward first deacon of the church, Capt. Thomas Fanning, ship-master and merchant, Jabez Dean, Asa Peabody, Ephraim Bill, Gershom Breed, and Prosper Wetmore, are some of the fresh names engrafted into the history of the town about the middle of the century.

The Lanman brothers were merchants from Plymouth, Mass. William died in 1756. The business was continued by Peter, and the firm remained

in his name and that of his son, Peter Lanman, Jr., as partner and successor, for more than fifty years.

Prosper Wetmore was from Stafford. He settled at Norwich in 1747, on his marriage with Anne, daughter of Hezekiah Huntington, and from that time till his death, in 1788, took an active part in town and church affairs. For many years he was sheriff of New London county. His wife died in 1754, and he married Keturah Chesebrough of Stonington. Sheriff Wetmore's house was on the bluff near the extreme end of Rocky Point, afterward the residence of Dr. Lemuel Boswell.

Lieut. Gershom Breed was a descendant of Allen Breed, who emigrated to this country about 1630, and settled in Lynn, Mass. John, a grandson of the first emigrant, removed to Stonington, where he married Mercy, daughter of Gershom Palmer, and united with the Stonington church in 1690. Gershom, his tenth and last child, married Dorothy McLarran, a grand-daughter of Dea. Joseph Otis of the North Parish of New London, and settled as a merchant in Norwich about the year 1750.

"Trumble, Fitch & Trumble,"\* was a business firm in Norwich, formed in 1763. The partners were Jonathan Trumbull, his son Joseph, and Col. Eleazar Fitch, all of Lebanon. The elder branches of the firm had for several years transacted business in Norwich. The junior partner, Joseph Trumbull, who had been to England and established business relations with several mercantile houses in London, was now the resident acting partner in the concern. This firm had the agency of vessels trading at Barbadoes, Ireland, Liverpool, and London. A series of heavy losses at sea, not only in the mercantile line, but in the whaling business, upon which they had entered, caused the failure of the house in the course of a few years, but the business was continued, though within a narrower compass, until the war for liberty broke up all regular commerce and called upon the two Trumbulls to devote their energies to the service of their country. In that conflict Col. Fitch disagreed both in opinion and action with his former partners. He espoused the royal cause, and became a refugee.

In 1774, the three men who paid the highest tax in Chelsea were Jeremiah Clement, Joseph Howland, and William Coit. Thomas Coit was also for many years engaged in trade. Jedidiah and Andrew Huntington were men of business in the town-plot. Dudley Woodbridge from Stonington had opened a store in the same quarter. Hubbards & Greene, commission merchants of Boston, had a branch of their business in Norwich. In 1766, the "London Packet" was advertised to sail from Norwich to England.

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\* Investigations made by Joseph Trumbull while in England, led to a change in the spelling of the last syllable of the family name. The revised form was adopted about the year 1766, before the elder Trumbull became Governor.

Stuart's Life of Trumbull, p. 118.



Of the French war with respect to its influence upon the town, nothing is found on record but in the way of reference and hint. Between 1755 and 1763, in the registry of deaths, in accounts and settlements of estates, occasional allusions may be noticed to one who *went to the wars*, or died in battle, or of camp-fever. The preamble to the will of Joseph Johnson of Preston, made June, 1757, and proved May, 1758, has this passage: "Being called by Providence to go forth against the common enemy and to jeopard my life upon the high places of the field," &c. We infer at once that such persons were victims of the frontier service.

Again, sloops and schooners left the port with provisions, bound to Albany, and the evidence is presumptive that they carried supplies to the New England forces in the field.

It was an exciting period. The whole country resounded with tidings of Indian depredations and rumors of savage cruelty. The few newspapers of the day were filled with thick coming reports of the barbarities practiced in the pioneer settlements. In western and northern New York and through the fertile interior of the Middle States, at that time a vast overshadowed wilderness, hordes of Red men, with or without French instigators or French leaders, came out of their haunts, with a sudden sweep upon villages or single farm-houses, upon men at work or children at play, howling as they came, and marking their path with fire and slaughter. New England has no page of its history so stained with the slaughter of the helpless as this. Philip's war had a more limited sphere, made fewer victims, and displayed less ferocity.

Norwich, remote from the scenes of strife and danger, sitting amid her hills, could only sympathize with her frontier kindred in their perils, and send her quotas to their defence. This they were often called to do, and we may be sure that prayers and tears were mingled in many families at those times, when such notes as the following were registered in almanacs or private diaries: "Ten stout men drawn for Canada." "Six of our neighbors pressed to go against the Indians." "More soldiers to be raised," &c.

In 1756, four regiments were raised in Connecticut for frontier service; and one of these under Col. Nathan Whiting was drawn chiefly from New London county. In 1758, Col. Samuel Coit commanded a regiment raised in Norwich and its neighborhood, which wintered at Fort Edward. Col. Eleazar Fitch, Col. William Whiting, Capt. Robert Denison and Capt. Samuel Mott served in these campaigns against the French. Dr. Jonathan Marsh was with the northern army as a surgeon in 1756 and 1757, and Dr. Philip Turner in 1758.

Elijah Huntington (son of Isaac, one of the estimable recorders of Norwich,) served in the frontier army through three campaigns, 1758-60 and was in the service when Canada surrendered to General Amherst.

The scanty records of the time leave it out of our power to enter into details, or enlarge this slender list of individuals.

In 1761, according to a certified list of Joseph Hull, the collector of the royal customs at New London, the whole number of vessels sailing from Connecticut district was forty-five. Only one of these was over 60 tons burden, viz., the brigantine *Mermaid*, 68 tons. Four were armed. The whole amount of tonnage, 1668; number of men employed, 387; number of guns, 40.

This comprised at that period the whole shipping of Connecticut. After the peace of 1763, there was a great increase of trade. Fishing and trading vessels of small capacity and light draft, but pliant and sea-worthy, continued to multiply and keep all the northern coast lively with their enterprise, till suddenly checked by the Revolutionary war.

Two of the earliest grave-stone memorials within the bounds of Chelsea perpetuate the names of ship-masters. One of these was erected in memory of Capt. John Culver, who died in 1757, at the age of 60, and was interred in the Episcopal Church-yard; the other is in remembrance of Capt. Daniel Tracy, whose death occurred in 1760, in the 52d year of his age. Capt. Tracy was interred in the Society burial-place, which was opened in 1755. Earlier than this, no interments appear to have been made at the Landing. The oldest grave-stone that has been found in Chelsea, bearing the name of a man of mature age, is one in this cemetery that points out the resting-place of William Lanman, the young merchant heretofore mentioned, "who," according to the record, "lived a sober, virtuous life, and died in hope of a happy immortality," in the 30th year of his age, 1756.



## CHAPTER XXIII.

### THE NEW LIGHT EXCITEMENT. SEPARATIST CHURCHES.

DR. LORD was considered an earnest evangelical preacher, and his ministry was eminently useful and successful. His style of delivery was impressive. One of his contemporaries said that "he seemed to have an inexhaustible fund of proper words, pointed sense, and devout affections." When he settled in 1717, there were about thirty male members in the church, and as many females. In the first fifty years of his ministry, 330 were admitted.

"When I first came here," said Dr. Lord, speaking of his congregation, "there was a beautiful sight of venerable aged fathers, and many of them appearing much of the right Puritan stamp,—the hoary head found in the way of righteousness."\*

At the time of his settlement the whole town was but one parish. Long before the end of his pastorate, it comprised eight societies, with each its church and minister, of the Congregational order, also five societies of Separatists, and an Episcopal organization.

In 1721 there was a revival in his church, coincident with one in Windham, ten miles distant, under the ministry of Mr. Samuel Whiting, who admitted eighty persons to church membership in six months.† The era of revivals had not then commenced, which made the interest manifested in these two churches the more worthy of note. But these examples were not diffusive; and for many years all New England seemed sunk into worldliness and formality, exhibiting no spiritual growth, and little if any fervent religious emotion.

In the midst of this general declension, the only hopeful sign of which seemed to be that Christians were aware of it and deplored it as a calamity, a wonderful manifestation of spiritual activity was suddenly developed in Northampton, in connection with the preaching of the Rev. Jonathan Edwards. It began in 1733, and continued for two or three years. In the spring of 1735 it was estimated that in Northampton alone there were thirty conversions in a week for six weeks in succession.

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\* Half-century Sermon.

† Backus' Church History. Trumbull's Conn., Vol. 2.

Mr. Lord of Norwich and Mr. Owen of Groton were so deeply interested in the reports of this work, that they made a journey to Northampton in order to witness its effects and obtain from Mr. Edwards himself an account of its beginning and progress. They returned declaring that the half had not been told them. Their report and the increased energy of their subsequent ministrations had an awakening influence upon their own people, which was communicated to other churches in the neighborhood.

In 1740 the flame burst forth afresh, and the way being in some degree prepared, not a few churches only, but hundreds, were aroused and vivified, brightened as it were with a new light, and awakened to a new life, so that this period is distinctively called the period of the New Light excitement, or Great Awakening. In the three churches of Norwich the work began early, and soon became deep, strong, and enthusiastic in its exhibitions. Lebanon, Windham, Canterbury, New London, Groton, Stonington, and in fact all the eastern towns of the colony, were pervaded with the new light and exalted into a state of gospel fervor. The Rev. Mr. Tennent, celebrated as an evangelist, Dr. Wheelock of Lebanon, Mr. Parsons of Lyme, Mr. Pomeroy, Mr. Davenport, and other fervid exhorters of the day, went from place to place, preaching with great power, and every where breaking up the torpid surface of society with the hammer, fire, and two-edged sword of the gospel.

The great success of these eminent men led many other ministers into a course of itinerant and often erratic service. In Norwich, as well as in most other places where conversions were numerous, the beauty of the work was marred by gross irregularities. Outcries, ecstasies, and some instances of infuriated zeal were exhibited, which seem to have had an effect in cooling the ardor of Mr. Lord, deadening his sympathy for the enthusiasts, and keeping him in a conservative position.

The Rev. Isaac Backus, one of the converts of this period, who afterwards seceded from Mr. Lord's church, observes :

“ The work was so powerful, and people in general so ignorant, that they had little government of their passions. Many cried out and fell down in meetings.”

In addition to these shoutings and bodily writhings, which rendered the meetings, to say the least, disorderly, many of the converts displayed in their harangues a self-confident boasting of their own state and a censorious judgment of others, that grieved and offended the less excited part of the community. The old meeting-house on the hill, then somewhat dilapidated, and soon to give way to a successor, witnessed some transcendent exhibitions of that mingling of earth and heaven, of the fresh regenerative power of the gospel with the extravagance of fanaticism, that are too often displayed in times of religious excitement.\*

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\* Hovey's Life of Backus, p. 37.



The clergy, as a body, frowned upon all bodily transports and ranting exhortations, and some of them carried their disgust so far as to condemn the revival itself. The Legislature deemed it necessary for the civil authority to interfere and take cognizance of these irregularities. An act was passed in May, 1742, restricting ministers to their own pulpits, and interdicting all itinerant preaching, as well as the public teachings of laymen. These restrictions were regarded by those against whom they were directed as intolerant, and instead of repressing disorders, they roused the enthusiasm of the zealots to a fiercer flame.

Notwithstanding all these drawbacks, the deep spiritual benefits of the revival were perceived by the wise and good, and its purifying, renovating influence acknowledged with devout thanksgiving. In June, 1743, twelve ministers, belonging to the counties of New London and Windham, convened at Norwich for the purpose of acknowledging the goodness of God in this revival, and in a public declaration gave their testimony in its favor, "as a great and glorious work of divine grace, and a great reformation of religion." Among the signers to this document were three ministers of Norwich, Benjamin Lord, Daniel Kirtland, and Jabez Wight.

These acknowledgments were not, however, designed to sanction the errors connected with the revival, and the civil authority was generally allowed to take its course in dealing with those who violated the statute, or were transported by excessive zeal beyond the bounds of charity and decorum. Fines, seizures and imprisonments were indeed of frequent occurrence, to be remembered only with grief and condemnation, but in most instances the indictment was made under the old laws against non-payment of rates and non-attendance upon the worship of the Sabbath. It was just a continuation of the old list of actions, with perhaps a sharper look-out and a more rigorous enforcement of the letter of the law on the part of officials.

It does not appear that any arrests were made or fines imposed in Norwich, for lay-preaching, or attendance on Separate meetings, unless those meetings were tumultuous and disorderly and the language used by the exhorters unjustifiable and slanderous. Doubtless, however, both parties were in fault. Men were sometimes prosecuted with great pertinacity for slight offences, but on the other hand the language of denunciation was used to a revolting extent, accompanied with great contempt of the legal authorities.

An instance of this violent fanaticism which occurred in January, 1742, and was established by the testimony of three witnesses, is found recorded among the papers left by Dr. Lord. A fierce exhorter, in the midst of his convulsions, using terms the most baneful and appalling in the language, expressed the delight it would give him to witness the everlasting destruction of certain persons whom he mentioned by name. At the same

time he called upon God to witness that he was speaking under the influence of the Holy Spirit. Dr. Lord appends to this evidence the remark that at these meetings "such kind of dreadful expressions" were often used. These performances excuse in some degree the rigors of ecclesiastical judgment, and almost justify the interference of the magistrate.

It is well known that the New Lights were all addicted to strange tones and violent gesticulations. With coats off and arms extended, they prepared themselves for a word of exhortation; not thinking themselves successful unless they could arouse their audience to shouts, tears, ecstasies, and tremblings, ending in exhaustion. When Mr. Parsons preached in 1741, one of his awakening sermons in the parish of New Concord, where Mr. Throop was the minister, it is said, "a great number were in tears, and some cried out; some fainted away, and one or two *raged*."\*

The most important point upon which the two parties disagreed related to the qualifications necessary for the admission of church-members. The New Light party insisted on a satisfactory relation of experience, or a declaration of what faith had wrought in the soul. But Mr. Lord and a majority of the church stood by the ancient practice in this respect, and in January, 1745, passed the following vote:

"Though it is esteemed a desirable thing that persons who come into full communion offer some publick relation of their experience; yet we do not judge or hold it a term of communion."†

This vote expresses the current sentiment of the churches previous to that period, and at the time of its adoption. A relation of internal exercises had not generally been required.

It has been observed that at the time of Mr. Lord's ordination, the church refused to receive the Saybrook Platform, and assumed a position of Congregational independence. After a few years the pastor expressed a wish to join the Association of New London county, if it could be done without compromising the independence of the church and expressly consenting to the New Platform as a model of discipline.‡

On these "cautionary grounds" the church acceded to his request, and

\* Denison's Notes on the Baptists.

† Mr. Lord was himself decidedly averse to making a relation of experience a term of communion. His reasoning was to this effect:

"The church has no authority to make rules and terms of admission to bind the conscience, but only to follow the plain directions of the word of God; and if there is any scriptural law for such a term of communion to be imposed upon the conscience, where is it? For where there is no law there is no transgression, and therefore to be no imposition."

‡ "I have often thought," he said, "that it was a damage to me to live as one alone upon the earth, and prevented that improvement I might make by enjoying their society."



a proposition of fellowship, with this reserve, was made to the Association of New London county, convened at Preston, Nov. 10, 1724, and acted upon as follows :

“Whereas some have questioned whether a minister’s attending upon and consenting to be a member of this Association has not been looked upon by the Association as his giving his consent to the articles of Church discipline established by this Colony and as binding him and his church to be governed by them :

“Resolved that it never has been nor is it now so esteemed by the Association.”

After the year 1741, one of the objections brought against Mr. Lord by the New Light brethren was, that he and his party in the church had gone into fellowship with the Association, and thus abandoned the old platform for the new. This objection does not appear to have been valid, no evidence appearing that either pastor or church had ever consented to the Saybrook Platform. The last item on record respecting it is a protest of the church, Feb. 20, 1744–5, against Mr. Lord’s attending the meetings of the Association in future, and a recall of their former consent in this particular, lest his acting and voting with them should be construed into a concurrence with their principles.\* At the same time they re-affirmed their attachment to the old Platform of the Fathers of 1648, “not only in respect to doctrine and truth and form of covenant, but in respect of order and exercise of church discipline.”

Feb. 19, 1745, we first become cognizant that a separation had taken place in Mr. Lord’s church. The leaders in this movement were Hugh Calkins and Jedidiah Hyde; and the first Separate meetings were held at the house of the former, near Yantic bridge at the west end of the town-plot. A committee was appointed at that date to inquire into the reasons of their separation, and endeavor to bring them back to the church.

In July, thirteen members were cited to appear and answer for their continued withdrawal from the regular meetings and communion of the church, and for attending a Separate meeting on the Sabbath. Various committees were appointed, and private conferences held with the seceding members. Some of them declined all discussion, but others frankly stated the grounds of their dissatisfaction.

“Better edification,” or “the gospel better preached elsewhere,” was the prevalent reason given.

“Not making regeneration the only term of communion.”† “Opening

\* Backus in his Church History asserts that in 1744 Mr. Lord openly declared his attachment to the Saybrook Platform, and gives this as the chief cause of the Separation. It was also stated as one of the reasons of dissent by a suspended member in 1758, that the church had gone off from the *Old Platform*, that is, of 1648. The records of the church, however, do not afford any evidence of this change.

† Jedidiah Hyde’s objection.

the door too wide, letting in all sorts of persons, without giving any evidence at all of their faith in Christ and repentance towards God."

Here lay the strong point of the dissenters. It was in fact the only doctrinal point of any importance at issue. The practice of the church had been lax in the admission of members, and an invigorating change in this respect was in the end a beneficial result of the schism. When this, which seems to have been the special object of their mission, was accomplished, the Separate churches passed away.

At a later date, when these seceding societies had been organized and their doctrines and practice had been digested and settled, the causes of dissatisfaction were thus stated :

1. Neglect of church discipline.
2. Coldness and want of application in preaching.
3. The qualifications necessary to church membership.
4. Private brethren being debarred the privilege of exhortation and prayer.
5. The laws of the state.

The complaints specially preferred against Mr. Lord were mostly crude, trifling, and exceptional : "Not speaking up for that which is good;" "not praying for their meetings;" "not a friend to lively preaching and preachers."\*

This last objection might be a fault or a virtue, according to the meaning attached to the term *lively*. It is evident that Mr. Lord and his party understood by it that passionate, denunciatory and discursive style of exhortation, accompanied with bodily seizures and excesses, which was common in the New Light meetings; and entertaining this view of *lively* preaching, it is not surprising that they were among its opponents.†

"Oct. 17, 1745. The Church voted all the reasons insufficient, and the Separation uncharitable and unwarrantable; an offence to Christ the Head of the Church, and a disorderly walking."

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\* An error has been circulated to some considerable extent, that Dr. Lord was unfriendly "to *lowly* preaching and preachers,"—the word *lowly* being explained to mean "the preaching of uneducated men and laymen." See Notes on the Baptists of Norwich, by Rev. F. Denison, p. 21, and Hovey's Memoir of the Life and Times of Rev. Isaac Backus, p. 43. This has all originated from a mis-reading of the MS. record, where the word, however, is *lively*, and not *lowly*. The error in this case is not of moment, since doubtless no injustice is done to the reverend pastor, in attributing to him a want of sympathy with an uncommissioned, unlearned ministry; but it shows the necessity of care and caution in transcribing MS. documents, as the mistake of a word may cast upon character a stigma wholly unmerited.

† Rev. Jacob Elliot of Lebanon (Goshen Society) in his Almanac Diary notices a visit that he had from a party of New Lights who came to deal with him for his opposition to the work. The complaints they urged against him were chiefly these : unaptness to teach, and *opening his eyes in prayer*.



The thirteen offending members were subsequently all suspended from the church. They were :

Hugh Calkins.

Jedidiah Hyde.

William Lathrop.

Samuel Leffingwell.

Joseph Griswold.

John Smith.

James Backus.

Isaac Backus.

John Leffingwell, Jr.

Daniel Chapman.

Phebe, wife of Hugh Calkins.

Lydia, wife of Joseph Kelley.

Widow Elizabeth Backus.

Mary, wife of William Lothrop, and Anne Hough, were subsequently suspended.

Dea. Hezekiah Huntington was also a disciple of the New Light, but it does not appear that he withdrew from the church, or was under censure. Backus says of him, "Huntington had been greatly engaged in the reformation, and continued stedfast therein all his days."

It was during the first four or five days of August, 1745, that Whitefield was first in Norwich, tarrying probably but a few hours. He held a great Indian meeting at Mohegan, and perhaps spent a day with Mr. Jewett of the North Parish, and was at New London Aug. 8th. A resolution had been passed by the General Association of Connecticut, the June preceding his visit, advising the clergy not to invite him to their pulpits, and the people not to attend on his ministrations. It is doubtful, therefore, whether he preached at this time in Norwich; if he did, it was probably in the open air, or among the New Lights.

The Separatists soon began to gather into churches. At Bean Hill they erected a plain but respectable house of worship. It had no spire, no bell, nor pews, but was furnished with a pulpit and comfortable seats. The church was organized with thirty male members, and Jedidiah Hide ordained their minister, Oct. 30, 1747.

Thomas Denison was ordained at Norwich Farms, Oct. 29, 1747. A Separate Church was formed at Newent in 1750, with seven members or pillars, and Jeremiah Tracy, one of the seven, chosen to preach and administer the ordinances to them,—a work which the regular Newent church, in their records, solemnly declare that they believe the Lord had not called him to do. Mr. Willoughby was afterwards their minister, but the zeal of the leaders soon declined, and the congregation gradually fell away.

In Long Society, Jonathan Story was ordained by the Separates, May 20, 1752. Meetings were held in that society, but it is not known that a church was organized.

In the society of New Concord, where Mr. Throop was pastor, no church was formed, but a Separate meeting was sustained for several

years, which became the seed from whence a Baptist church ultimately originated.

Thus it appears that the Separatists gathered five distinct *meetings* or congregations within the nine-miles-square: at Norwich Town, Franklin, Lisbon, Bozrah, and Long Society. The two last were soon extinct, having probably no church organization. The whole eastern part of Connecticut shared in the seceding movement, and twenty or thirty churches were organized.

The following memoranda relating to the Bean Hill Separatists are taken from a paper on file among the records of the First Congregational Church:

1745. Feb. 10. Began at Hugh Calkins the first Separation.

1747. Oct. 30. Mr. Hide was ordained.

1757. Sept. 22. Mr. Hide was deposed.

1759. Aug. 17. Mr. John Fuller was ordained.

1762. Dec. 22. Mr. Reynolds was ordained.

1766. Nov. 8. Mr. Reynolds embraced the Baptist principles and was baptized.

1772. June 9. Last time of his Communion.

Met and had meetings till 15 March, 1788, when they met in the character of Universalists.

Mr. Fuller had been ordained at Lyme, Dec. 25, 1747. The service at Bean Hill in 1759 must therefore have been of the nature of an installation. He was an excellent man and a good preacher, but remained in Norwich only two or three years, and then became pastor of a church in Plainfield, where he died in 1777. Under the changeful teachings of his successor, Mr. Reynolds, the Bean Hill church languished, faded, and expired.

Its most flourishing period was from 1750 to 1754 inclusive. The following extracts from the journal of Mr. Isaac Backus, one of the thirteen seceders from Dr. Lord's church, refer to this Bean Hill meeting:

Jan. 17, 1753. I would here review a little what I have seen at Norwich. This last year the enemies have done more at haling the saints to prison for rates, than they have done ever before since our Separation; but it is remarkably evident that, as it was with Israel, so it has been here: "The more they oppressed them, the more they grew." This congregation, I think, is nearly as large again as it was the last time I was here before.

Sept. 15, 1754. Preached both parts of the day in brother Hide's meeting-house, to the largest auditory which I ever saw there.†

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\* Bliss Willoughby, one of the Separate Teachers, is supposed to have occupied the pulpit for a short time between Mr. Hide's deposition and Mr. Fuller's service.

† Memoir of the Life and Times of Rev. Isaac Backus, A. M. By Alvah Hovey, D. D. Boston, 1858.



As the Separate churches were not recognized by the Legislature, the members were still taxed to support their former ministers, and this led to various instances of petty persecution and private suffering, imprisonment and distraining of goods, the memory of which is still hoarded and perhaps aggravated by tradition. At Norwich the number of Separates was considerable, and their influence still greater, so that at one period they out-voted the standing regular church, and declared that they would not support a minister by a tax. The other party appealed to the Legislature, and obtained an order to enforce the rates. Violent commotions were the consequence, and it is said that no less than forty persons were imprisoned on this account in one season. There was perhaps no town in the colony where the conflict between the standing order, supported by the civil authority, and the enthusiasts, was more vehement and protracted than at Norwich.

An aggravated case of this kind was that of the widow Elizabeth Backus, one of the first company of seceders, and a zealous partizan of the cause. Her son had previously suffered an imprisonment of twenty days, and herself, on a dark night in October, 1752, about nine o'clock, was seized by the collector, carried to jail, and kept there thirteen days. Her tax was then paid, but without her consent, by her son-in-law, Gen. Jabez Huntington. At a subsequent period, her grandson, Gen. Jedidiah Huntington, pledged himself to pay her rates annually, that the venerable lady might not be disturbed by any solicitations for that purpose. This lady was mother of the Rev. Isaac Backus, of Middleborough, Mass., who, in his Church History, has preserved a letter from her, giving an account of her imprisonment, and the abundant measure of divine support that she received under it. She states that Mr. Griswold, deacon of the Separate Church, and Messrs. Hill, Sabin and Grover, were imprisoned at the same time. Mr. Backus adds, "They went on in such ways for about eight years, until the spiritual weapons of truth and love vanquished those carnal weapons, which have not been so used in Norwich since."

The last instance of distraintment that is remembered to have taken place, was in the case of Mr. Ezekiel Barrett, who died in 1838, at the age of ninety-five. He had refused to pay the usual rates, and was arrested at the court-house, just at the close of a town meeting. He made an obstinate resistance, and it took the constable and six other men to convey him to jail. He was considerably bruised in the scuffle, and by being dragged upon the frozen ground. After a week's imprisonment, he gave his note for the sum demanded, and was released. Subsequently he refused to pay the note, alleging that it was forced from him by oppression. It was sued at law, and his cow taken and sold at the post to pay the rate and costs.

It is undoubtedly this instance which has given rise to the reports that

these taxes were always rigorously exacted, even to the seizure of the poor man's cow and his last bushel of grain. The cases above mentioned are believed to be the only ones that occurred in which great severity was exercised. Dr. Lord always treated the Separatists with kindness and respect, and this led the way to the restoration of a considerable number of them to his church.

Before the final extinction of the Separate church, a small party seceded from these seceders, and embraced the doctrine of the universal salvation of all mankind, or the final restoration of all to a state of happiness. They held their meetings in the large front kitchen of the house then occupied by Mr. Ebenezer Grover, and still known as the old Grover house. Here Mr. Hide used occasionally to hold meetings, and after him Mr. Gamaliel Reynolds. The latter was a stone-mason by trade, a man of no education, but of considerable native talent. He was one of that original class of men,—keen, witty, and observing; famed for humorous sallies, and those apt remarks that are treasured up and retailed as sayings, of which the present day seems to exhibit fewer specimens than of yore. Norwich in former days possessed many of these original characters, both of the whimsical and shrewd species. Mr. Reynolds died May 7, 1805, aged eighty-one.

After the introduction of Universalism into the Separate meetings, a considerable number of the members returned to their old home in the Congregational church, and were received with cordiality. Among these was the venerable Joseph Griswold, deacon of the late Separate church, who had been an early and zealous advocate of the New Light, and before his suspension had interrupted Mr. Lord in the midst of one of his sermons, to declare his dissent from something that he said. It was scarcely expected that he would ever re-connect himself with his former associates, and it created considerable emotion in the meeting-house, when, for the first time after his secession, his gray locks were seen in the old man's seat. As he was somewhat deaf, he soon afterward asked permission of the young pastor to go up the pulpit stairs and lean over the door while he was preaching, that he might hear more distinctly. Mr. Strong immediately invited him to take a seat in the pulpit, which he ever afterwards did, when able to attend meeting.



## CHAPTER XXIV.

### MISCELLANEOUS GATHERINGS.

THE first person who set up a *chaise* in Norwich was one Samuel Brown; he was fined for riding in it to meeting. In those simple and severe days, the rolling of wheels through the streets was considered a breach of the Sabbath. It would undoubtedly have a tendency to attract attention, and cause the thoughts to wander from the peculiar duties of the day. If a man at the present time should arrive in town on Saturday night in a balloon, and go to meeting in it on Sunday, it would be a similar case. Brown died in 1804, aged ninety. Col. Simon Lathrop also rode in a chaise at a very early period, but his effeminacy in this respect was excused on account of the feeble health of his wife. At the period of the revolution, only six *chaises*, or as they are now called, *gigs*, were owned in the place. The owners of these six were, 1st, Gen. Jabez Huntington; this gig was large, low, square-bodied, and studded with brass nails that had square and flat heads,—it was the first in town that had a top which could be thrown back. 2d, Col. Hezekiah Huntington. 3d, Dr. Daniel Lathrop; this was regarded as a splendid vehicle,—it had a yellow body, with a red morocco top, and a window upon one side. 4th, Dr. Theophilus Rogers. 5th, Elijah Backus, Esq. 6th, Nathaniel Backus, Esq., of Chelsea; this afterwards belonged to Capt. Seth Harding. Within the same limits, at a later period, between three and four hundred gigs were owned at the same time. Probably no town in the Union, of equal size, could turn out as many. Mechanics, farmers, and in general every thriving, well-to-do householder, owned a horse and chaise. This species of vehicle has since given place to the wagon, buggy, and other four-wheeled carriages.

The visits of the first Governor Trumbull to Norwich were customarily made in one of these square-bodied, square-topped, two-wheeled, one-horse carriages, almost as substantial in structure as a house. His equipage was well known to the inhabitants, and there was always a great running to the doors, and bowings and curtseyings as the grand old chaise rolled steadily along, with the Governor and usually one of his family at his side,—Madam Trumbull, or a young daughter, for after 1770 he had two children: Joseph Trumbull, the young merchant, and Faith, the wife

of Jedidiah Huntington, settled in Norwich. They had also other friends and relatives in the place, with whom visits were often exchanged.

This Governor Trumbull was the original "*Brother Jonathan*,"—a name casually given by Washington, but which has become the familiar pass-word abroad for all Americans.

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The first druggist in Norwich, and probably the first in Connecticut who kept any general assortment of medicines for sale, was Dr. Daniel Lathrop. This gentleman graduated at Yale in 1733, and soon afterward went to Europe, where he prosecuted his medical studies in London. On his return, after an absence of several years, he brought with him a large quantity of medicines, as well as various other merchantable goods, and established himself in business in his native place. His shop was on the main street, near his family residence.

Dr. Lathrop furnished a part of the surgical stores to the northern army in the French war. He often received orders from New York. His drugs were always of the best kind, well prepared, packed and forwarded in the neatest manner. This was the only apothecary's establishment on the route from New York to Boston, and of course Dr. Lathrop had a great run of custom, often filling orders sent from the distance of a hundred miles in various directions. It is related that in 1749, when a malignant epidemic was prevailing in several of the western towns of the colony, the Rev. Mark Leavenworth, pastor of the church in Waterbury, incited by the suffering condition of many of his people for want of suitable medicines to arrest the distemper, came to Norwich on horseback to obtain a supply, performing the journey hither and back in three days.\* This fact alone is sufficient to show that no drug-store then existed either in New Haven or Hartford, and corroborates the statement often made by aged people in Norwich, that Dr. Lathrop's was the first establishment of the kind in the colony.

Joshua Lathrop, a younger brother of Dr. Daniel, after graduating at Yale in 1743, became connected with him in business, and no mercantile firm in this vicinity had a more solid reputation than the brothers Lathrop.† They imported not only medicines, but fruits, wines, European and India goods, directly from England; one of the firm, or a skillful agent, often crossing the ocean to select the stock. After a few years

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\* Bronson's History of Waterbury, p. 325.

† With Dr. Lathrop commenced the change of orthography in the name, which soon became universal among the descendants of the proprietor Samuel Lothrop. The new form will be henceforth used in this work, except when speaking of those early settlers that never wrote their names otherwise than with the o.



they relinquished the trade in miscellaneous merchandise, and confined themselves in a great measure to the drug business.\*

Benedict Arnold, Jr., and Solomon Smith were apprentices to Dr. Lathrop at the same period. Arnold subsequently set up the business in New Haven. Smith went to Hartford and established a drug-store in connection with Dr. Lathrop, who furnished the first stock. This was in 1757.

The following is one of their advertisements :

“Just imported from London in the last ship, via New York, and to be sold by Lothrop & Smith, at their store in King st. Hartford, Ct.—A large and universal assortment of medicines, genuine and of the best kind ; together with complete sets of Surgeon’s Capital and Pocket instruments ; very neat instruments for drawing teeth, metal mortars, small scales and weights ; all sorts of spice and choice Turkey figs ; a variety of painter’s colours and many other articles.”†

In 1776 the firm in Norwich was changed from Daniel & Joshua Lathrop to Lathrops & Coit ; their nephew, Joseph Coit, Jr., having been associated with them in business. The younger partner died in 1779, in the 30th year of his age, and the former title was resumed.‡

The wife of Dr. Daniel Lathrop was Jerusha, daughter of Governor Talcot of Hartford. They had three promising sons, cut down like flowers of the field, almost at a single sweep of the scythe, before the oldest had attained the age of four years. This was all their offspring, and the blow saddened though it did not embitter the feelings of this benevolent couple.

Dr. Lathrop died in 1782. Madam Lathrop long survived him, and was regarded with universal esteem and veneration. Her death took place in 1806. The early childhood of a gifted daughter of Norwich, Mrs. L. H. Sigourney, was passed under the roof of this excellent lady. Having lost her own children, in their infancy, she lavished all her maternal affection and fostering care on this child of her heart, who repaid her tenderness with filial veneration, and has embalmed her memory in hallowed verse.§

\* The invoice of drugs imported by them in one vessel was £8000. It is not probable however that they had supplies to this amount every year.

† New London Summary, July 11, 1760.

Dr. Sylvanus Gardiner of Boston also established a drug-store at Hartford, in connection with a junior partner, in May, 1757. The two firms were Lothrop & Smith, King st. ; Gardiner & Jepson, Queen st. They appear to have been simultaneous establishments, and neither can claim precedence of the other.

‡ He left a wife and infant daughter ; the latter married Nathaniel Howland.

§ Ezekiel Huntley and Zerviah Wentworth, both of Norwich, were married Nov. 28, 1790. Lydia, their daughter and only child, was born Sept. 1, 1791, while her parents were living under the same roof with Madam Lathrop. She was married to Charles Sigourney of Hartford, June 16, 1819.

The will of Dr. Daniel Lathrop contained a bequest of £500 sterling to Yale College, £500 to the town of Norwich for the support of a free Grammar School, and £500 also to the First Ecclesiastical Society of the town to assist in supporting the ministry.

Daniel and Joshua Lathrop were of the fourth generation of the name in Norwich,—sons of Thomas Lathrop, who died May 25, 1774, aged ninety-three. They had one sister, who married Joseph Coit of New London.

Joseph and Lydia (Lathrop) Coit were the parents of Dr. Joseph Coit, before mentioned; of Thomas Coit, merchant of Norwich and Canterbury; of the late Daniel L. Coit of Norwich, and of the Hon. Joshua Coit of New London. They had also three daughters, who in due season were transferred to Norwich as the wives of William Hubbard, Christopher Leffingwell, and Andrew Huntington.

The removal of these daughters to Norwich, the native place of their mother, and the increasing hazards of the seaboard in those days of alarm and invasion, ultimately drew Mr. Coit and most of the family hither.

Capt. Joseph Coit, the father, died at Norwich, 27th of April, 1787, in the ninetieth year of his age. Joshua, the youngest son, remained in New London, and was a member of Congress from the year 1793 to his death in 1798.

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*Africans.* The colored population of Norwich was more numerous than in most northern towns. It consisted partly of free blacks, accruing from previous occasional manumissions, and partly of persons still held in servitude and bought and sold as property. From bills of sale that are extant, and from the valuation made in inventories, we learn that in the early part of the century the price for slaves ranged from 60s. to £30. After this the value increased, and the best were rated at £100. The Rev. William Hart of Saybrook in 1749 purchased a negro boy of Jabez Huntington of Norwich, for whom he paid £290, old tenor; but this was a depreciated currency, probably not worth more than a fifth of its nominal value in silver coin. At a later period the price of a servant was considerably enhanced.

Captains John and Matthew Perkins, of Hanover Society, had each what was called a house-full of slaves. The former, known as “big Captain John,” died in 1761. His inventory enumerates his African servants, Tamar, Ziba, Jehu, Selah, &c., to the number of fifteen, the best valued at £50. Probably no larger number than this could be found in any one family in the county.

Capt. Matthew Perkins was a large landholder, a man of energetic character, and like his brother, strong and powerful in frame. “He died



[in 1773] from lockjaw caused by a bite on the thumb which he received from a young negro slave whom he was chastising for some fault.”\*

It was not until near the era of the Revolution that the reasonableness and equity of holding the African race in durance began to be questioned by the citizens. At length it was whispered about that it was inconsistent to complain of political oppression, and yet withhold from others the privileges to which they were entitled; to fight for liberty, and yet refuse it to a portion of the human family.

Communications on this subject, bold and even eloquent, appeared in the newspapers, of which one from the Norwich Packet will serve as a specimen:

July 7, 1774. To all those who call themselves Sons of Liberty in America, Greeting:

My Friends. We know in some good measure the inestimable value of liberty. But were we once deprived of her, she would then appear much more valuable than she now appears. We also see her, standing as it were tiptoe on the highest bough ready for flight. Why is she departing? What is it that disturbs her repose? Surely some foul monster of hideous shape, and hateful kind, opposite in its nature to hers, with all its frightful appearances and properties, iron hands and leaden feet, formed to gripe and crush, hath intruded itself into her peaceful habitation and ejected her. Surely this must be the case, for we know oppositions cannot dwell together. Is it not time, high time to search for this Achan? this disturber of Israel? High time, I say, to examine for the cause of those dark and gloomy appearances that cast a shade over our glory. And is not this it? Are we not guilty of the same crime we impute to others? Of the same facts that we say are unjust, cruel, arbitrary, despotic, and without law, in others? Paul argued in this manner:—“Thou therefore that teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? Thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal? Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law, dishonorest thou God?” And may we not use the same mode of argument and say—We that declare (and that with much warmth and zeal) it is unjust, cruel, barbarous, unconstitutional, and without law, to enslave, *do we enslave?*—Yes, verily we do? *A black cloud witnesseth against us and our own mouths condemn us!* How preposterous our conduct! How vain and hypocritical our pretences! Can we expect to be free, so long as we are determined to enslave?

HONESTY.

Under the influence of this new phase of public opinion and individual responsibility, several persons voluntarily liberated their slaves and made them some compensation for former services.

“Dec. 1774. Mr. Samuel Gager, of Norwich, from a conscientious regard to justice, has lately liberated three faithful slaves, and as a compensation for their services, leased them a very valuable farm on very moderate terms. Mr. Jonathan Avery also emancipated an able industrious negro man, from the same noble principle.”

An act of the Legislature, prescribing the rules and regulations under which emancipation should take place, was passed in 1777, and several

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\* Perkins' Genealogy, Hist. & Gen. Reg., 14, 114.

instances of liberation in accordance with the provisions of this statute\* are on record at Norwich,—such as:

“Liberty given by the Select men to Jabez Huntington Esq. to emancipate a negro man named Guy, Oct. 2, 1780.”

“Liberty to Col. Joshua Huntington to emancipate his negro servant, Bena, June 26, 1781.”

In 1784, the State passed an act for the gradual abolition of slavery; declaring all born after that period free at twenty-five years of age, and allowing masters to emancipate all between twenty-five and forty-five.

In 1800, forty-seven slaves remained in the State. But in the year 1848, slavery had entirely disappeared, and was declared by the Legislature extinct and forever abolished.

But whether slaves or freemen, the Africans of Norwich have always been treated with forbearance and lenity. They have been particularly indulged in their annual elections and trainings. In former times, the ceremony of a mock election of a negro governor, created no little excitement in their ranks. The servants for the time being assumed the relative rank and condition of their masters, and were allowed to use the horses and many of the military trappings of their owners. Provisions, decorations, fruits and liquors were liberally surrendered to them. Great electioneering prevailed, parties often ran high, stump harangues were made, and a vast deal of ceremony expended in counting the votes, proclaiming the result, and inducting the candidate into office,—the whole too often terminating in a drunken frolic, if not a fight.

A very decent grave-stone in the public burial-ground bears this inscription:

“In memory of Boston Trowtrow, Governor of the African tribe in this town, who died 1772, aged 66.”

After the death of this person, *Sam Hun'ton* was annually elected to this mock dignity for a much greater number of years than his honorable namesake and master, Samuel Huntington, Esq., filled the gubernatorial chair. It was amusing to see this sham dignitary after his election, riding

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\* Capt. William Browne, a noted loyalist of Salem, Mass., connected with the Winthrop family of New London, was the proprietor of a large tract of land lying south of Colechester, which formed almost a parish of itself, and was called by the owner New Salem. It is now in the town of Salem, Ct. A portion of it under cultivation had been leased for a term of years, with nine slaves as laborers upon it. When this land was confiscated in 1779, on account of the toryism of the proprietor, the slaves petitioned the Legislature, through Benjamin Huntington, the administrator on confiscated estates, for their liberty. The petition was not granted, but the slaves had the benefit of the new laws regulating emancipation, and it is supposed that they were all set free sooner or later.



through the town on one of his master's horses, adorned with plaited gear, his aids on each side, *a la militaire*, himself puffing and swelling with pomposity, sitting bolt upright, and moving with a slow, majestic pace, as if the universe was looking on. When he mounted or dismounted, his aids flew to his assistance, holding his bridle, putting his feet into the stirrup, and bowing to the ground before him. The Great Mogul, in a triumphal procession, never assumed an air of more perfect self-importance than the negro Governor at such a time.

We must not leave this subject without recording the name of *Leb Quy*, a native of Africa, and a trusty continental soldier. He served during three years of the war, and was one of the town's quota in 1780 and 1781.

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*Amusements.* Elections, training-days and thanksgivings were the customary holidays of New England; and at these times various athletic exercises gave vent to the restless spirits of an active and energetic race. The sports of men and boys were of a boisterous character. Shooting at marks, horse-racing, wrestling, running, leaping, ball-playing, were favorite amusements.

The annual Thanksgiving was a day of great hilarity, although its time-honored essential characteristic was a sermon. A peculiar adjunct of this festival in Norwich was a *barrel bonfire*. A lofty pole was erected, around which a pyramid of old barrels was arranged,—large at the platform, but a single barrel well tarred forming the apex. The burning of this pile constituted the revelry or triumphant part of the entertainment, and was considered by the young as indispensable to a finished Thanksgiving. When built upon the plain, the whole valley was lighted up by the blaze, like a regal saloon: and when upon a height, the column of flame sent forth a flood of light over woods and vales, houses and streams below, producing a truly picturesque effect.

No jovial excursions during the year were so common as sleighing parties. The snow-season was expected to bring with it leisure and merriment. The sleighs were broad and roomy, with straight, perpendicular sides, and a sharp point; the driver usually standing erect. Plaid wool-len coverlids performed the part of buffalo-robcs. The place of entertainment was from five to fifteen miles from home; several sleighs were often near together on the road; passing each other, exchanging shouts, and light hilarious greetings, or perchance bandying snow-balls as they passed.

In ante-revolutionary times, the half-way houses between Norwich and New London,—Raymond's, Bradford's, Haughton's,—were often the terminus of these excursions. In later days the Hyde tavern in Franklin

was a chosen resort, and rhymes were made and sung in honor of its festivities.

“What pleasure is greatest? My fancy decides,  
A party select and a sleigh-ride to Hyde’s.”

These pastimes were joyous, and often noisy and dashing, but seldom coarse or rude. Our New England towns have had no rowdy period; no such boorish, half-barbaric season as is almost a necessity to the emigrants who push into the forests of the far West, and begin life as hunters and pioneers.

In Norwich there was perhaps a tendency to the other extreme,—an epicurean fancy savoring of their English ancestry. Private parties on a hospitable scale were frequent, and references have been found to *tripe-suppers* and *turtle-entertainments* where friends and neighbors were splendidly regaled a hundred years ago.\*

Wedding festivities were usually continued through the day and evening, and not unfrequently prolonged for two or three days. A newspaper has preserved the statistics of one of these hymeneal entertainments, and though the scene was not at Norwich, it was so near that we may be quite sure many of its upper class of fashion and distinction participated in the festival.

“A great wedding dance took place at New London at the house of Nathaniel Shaw Esq. June 12, 1769, the day after the marriage of his son Daniel Shaw and Grace Coit; 92 gentlemen and ladies attended, and danced 92 jigs, 52 contra-dances, 45 minuets and 17 horn-pipes, and retired at 45 minutes past midnight.”

In that middle period between the strict Puritan times and the Revolution, dancing was a common diversion of young people. Balls and midnight revels were interdicted; but neighborly dances, either with or without a fiddler, often a part of the company singing for the others to dance,—contra-dances, reels, or jigs, improvised on some oak floor in kitchen or hall,—ending in a treat of nuts, apples, and cider,—these were allowable pastimes for the winter evenings.

Dancing also to a greater extent and with more elaborate display was permitted, as we have seen, at weddings and thanksgivings, doubtless also at other large and ceremonious entertainments, but without the objectionable accompaniment, except in very rare instances, of late hours.

An *ordination ball*, strange as it may sound, was allowed in some places as a finale to the festivities on the occasion of settling a minister; but there is no proof that this enormity was ever perpetrated in Norwich.

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\* An advertisement of a brown camlet riding-hood lost at a *turtle entertainment* at Mr. Matthew Leffingwell’s, appears in the Norwich Packet, August, 1779.



At the period immediately preceding the Revolution, social intercourse was on the most easy and delightful footing, in both divisions of the town. Visits were frequent, long, and familiar. The customs, in some respects, were the reverse of the present. The visit was made, and the visitors returned home by *daylight*. Instead of the lady giving out invitations to her guests, the guests sent word to the lady, (all the neighborhood joining together on such occasions,) that they would come and spend the afternoon with her.

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*Fashions.* The dress of that middle period can not be eulogized for its simplicity or economy. The wardrobe of the higher circles was rich and extravagant, and among the females of all classes there was a passion for gathering and hoarding articles of attire beyond what was necessary for present use, or even for years ahead. It was an object of ambition to have a chest full of linen, a pillow-bier of stockings, and other articles in proportion laid by.

In this connection we present a schedule of the wardrobe of "Widow Elizabeth White of Norwich," as contained in the inventory of her effects, taken Aug. 16, 1757. She was a daughter of Samuel Bliss, and relict of Daniel White of Middletown. After the death of her husband in 1726 she returned to Norwich, and there died, July 2, 1757, aged 71. The items of jewelry, plate and apparel were circumstantially enumerated, but we give them in an abridged form.

She had *gowns* of brown duroy, striped stuff, plaid stuff, black silk crape, calico, and blue camlet; a scarlet cloak, blue cloak, satin-flowered mantle, and furbelow scarf; a woollen petticoat with calico border; a camlet riding-hood, long silk hood, velvet hood, white hoods trimmed with lace, a silk bonnet, and 19 caps; a cambrick laced handkerchief, silk do., linen do., 16 handkerchiefs in all; a muslin laced apron, flowered laced apron, green taffety apron, 14 aprons in all; a silver ribband, silver girdle and blue girdle; 4 pieces of flowered satin; a parcel of crewel; a women's fan:

Turkey-worked chairs:

A gold necklace; death's head gold ring; plain gold ring; sett of gold sleeve-buttons; gold locket; silver hair peg; silver cloak clasps; a stone button set in silver:

A large silver tankard; a silver cup with two handles, do. with one handle, and a large silver spoon.

At the period of this inventory there was still a certain homeliness and frugality apparent, even in the fashionable attire of the day. But in the next generation richer goods were imported and more splendor was exhibited. The following is an illustrative instance:

The daughters of General Jabez Huntington\* were sent successively, at the ages of fourteen or fifteen years, to finish their education at a boarding school in Boston. The lady who kept the establishment was of high social standing, and made it a point of taking her pupils often into company, that their manners might be formed according to the prevailing codes of politeness and etiquette. Of course the wardrobe prepared for the young ladies was rich in articles of ornament and display. One of the daughters, who had been carefully fitted out with twelve silk gowns, had been but a short time in Boston, when her instructress wrote to her parents, requesting that another dress should be procured for her, made of a certain rich fabric that had recently been imported, in order that her appearance in society might be equal to her rank. A thirteenth robe of silk of the requisite pattern was therefore immediately procured and forwarded.

Before the Revolution, wigs full and curled, for clergymen and other dignitaries, white and powdered, red cloaks or roquelaurs, and buckles or bows of ribbon at the knees and in the shoes, were worn by gentlemen. Even young boys were often arrayed in cocked hats, small clothes, and knee-buckles.

On ceremonious occasions, if wigs were not worn, gentlemen had their hair craped, curled and powdered by barbers. A full dress for gentlemen was mostly made of silk, with trimmings of gold and silver lace, the waistcoat often richly embroidered.

Ladies wore trains to their gowns, often quite long, and when they walked out they threw the end over the right arm. The foot, when properly dressed, displayed a silk stocking, a sharp-toed slipper, often made of embroidered satin, and with a high heel.

At one period, sharply-gored gowns and cumbrous hoops were in fashion.

Cushions stuffed with wool and covered with silk were used in dressing the head, the hair being neatly combed over the cushion.† This mode of dressing the hair made a calash necessary instead of a bonnet. This was large and wide, a vast receptacle for wind, and an awkward article of

\* Afterwards Mrs. Col. Chester of Wethersfield, and Mrs. Dr. Strong of Norwich; the former born in 1757, the latter in 1760.

† A rhymester of the day, describing his imaginary love as a lady of fashion, says:

I mean she should wear  
A crape cushion for hair,  
I wish she might spell  
And read pretty well,  
That my billet she may not mistake:  
And the skin of my dear  
Be as smooth and as clear  
As chalk-eating can cleverly make.



attire, but often shrouding a health-beaming face in its depth, needing no other ornament than its own good-humored smile.\*

Women of mature age wore close linen caps. Parasols and umbrellas were unknown or of rare occurrence, but a fan nearly a foot and a half in length, and spreading like the train of a peacock, was often carried to keep off the sun, as well as to vivify the air.

At one period, feathers were much worn upon the head, surmounting a high turban of gauze or muslin raised on wire and adorned also with ribbons. The wits of Norwich called these young fashionists "the feathered race," and accused them of having their heads "martialized and cockatoned."

A lady in full dress for great occasions displayed a rich brocade with open skirt and trail; front skirt trimmed, an embroidered stomacher and full ruffles at the elbows. Hoods and scarfs were of silk. No sumptuary laws restrained the feminine taste for rich attire in this colony.

The satirists of the day decried the prevailing extravagance in dress, just as they do at present. They adverted to the costly cloaks, the silk gowns, the powder-puffs and cardinals, the silk stockings and other expensive feet-trappings, and exclaimed,—Great is the prodigality of the times! They recalled the days of greater simplicity, when instead of the rich cloth roquelaure, even the magistrate and the colonel were satisfied with a cloak of brown camlet, lined with green baize, and the greatest lady in the land had her riding-hood also of camlet.

As the great struggle for liberty gradually overshadowed the land, and the sacrifices necessary to consummate the revolution began to be appreciated, a decided change took place in regard to dress, amusements, and display. Women discarded all imported ornaments, and arrayed themselves wholly in domestic goods. Fine wool and choice flax were in higher estimation than silks and laces, and the hearts of patriots as well as the laudations of the poet were given to beauty in homespun garments.

Gentlemen also that had been accustomed to appear in society in the daintiest costume, following the example first set by the women, discarded their shining stocks, their cambric ruffles, silk stockings, silver buckles, and other articles of foreign production, and went back to leather shoe-strings, checked handkerchiefs, and brown homespun cloth.

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\* In a Norwich paper of 1780, the Calash and Cushion are thus covertly ridiculed:

Hail, great Calash! o'erwhelming veil,  
By all-indulgent heaven,  
To sallow nymphs and maidens stale,  
In sportive kindness given.

Safe hid beneath thy circling sphere,  
Unseen by mortal eyes,  
The mingled heap of oil and hair  
And wool and powder lies.

## CHAPTER XXV.

MINISTERS. REV. DR. LORD. REV. DR. STRONG.

DR. LORD preached his half-century sermon Nov. 29, 1767, from 2d Peter, 1:12-15. He was then seventy-four years of age, and in firm health and strength. In the fifty-fourth year of his ministry, he had begun to express a wish that a colleague should be provided for him, and this request being now reiterated, Mr. Joseph How was procured as an assistant. Mr. How was then a tutor in Yale College, but a licensed preacher, and possessed of very pleasing oratorical powers. He occupied the pulpit alternately with Dr. Lord during a portion of that year and the next. In May, 1773, Mr. How accepted an invitation to settle as pastor of the South Church in Boston, and Dr. Lord was left without any regular assistant until near the close of 1777, when a new effort was made, and Mr. Joseph Strong procured to act as colleague.\*

On the sixty-first anniversary of his ordination, he delivered a second retrospective discourse, which was printed and entitled :

“The Aged Minister’s Solemn Appeal to God and serious address to his people.”

In 1781, he favored the congregation with a sixty-fourth anniversary sermon, but it was not published. After this period, infirmity came fast upon him. In his eighty-seventh year his eye-sight failed him, and he preached ever afterwards extemporaneously. He however continued to write his discourses, keeping his place upon the paper with his left hand, and though the lines could not be very straight, and the words frequently ran over each other, his grand-daughter Caroline used to study it out, and then read it over slowly and repeatedly to him, until it was sufficiently imprinted on his memory to enable him to deliver it with fluency from the pulpit. It was observed by his people that the sermons thus preached were some of his best; for generally Mr. Lord’s style was diffuse and somewhat reduplicative, but the difficulty of writing when he had become blind led him to think longer and to condense his thoughts into as few words as possible. His reasoning powers were even at this age very little

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\* Among the disbursements of the society is £3 paid Mr. Russell Hubbard for the expense of his journey *up country* to see Mr. Strong.



impaired, and to use the language of one of his most intimate friends, "his meekness, humility, philanthropy and heavenly-mindedness were apparently increased, and he seemed to

‘Stand with his starry pinions on,  
Drest for the flight, and ready to be gone.’ ”\*

He resumed his pastoral labors, at intervals, and being assisted up the pulpit stairs, graced the public worship, with his venerable presence, by the side of his young associate, almost without interruption until his death, which took place March 31, 1784, almost sixty-seven years after his ordination. He was in the ninetieth year of his age. A contemporary notice of his death observes that his last appearance in the sacred desk "was on the Thanksgiving subsequent to the restoration of peace to America,—seemingly by a special Providence gratified in living to such a memorable period, which he had often expressed his wish to see."

Dr. Lord was a small man, and in his latter days stooped much, yet his appearance was pleasing and interesting. He had a vivid blue eye, keen yet alluring, and a slow, impressive manner of speaking. His dress was neat. He wore a white wig, and showed conspicuous silver buckles at his knees and in his shoes.

Though he lived to old age, his constitution was far from robust, and in his early years he was subject to pain and disease. Age, therefore, personified in him, looked still more aged, and no one could approach him without being struck with the reverend antiquity of his appearance. His intercourse with his people was like that of an affectionate father in his family. "I have lived (said he) in their hearts, and they in mine."

In addition to a sickly frame, he had almost continual sickness in his family. His first wife, Ann, daughter of the Rev. Edward Taylor of Westfield, to whom he was married in 1720, was confined to the bed sixteen years, and eight years of that time was incapable of feeding herself; but these dispensations were all sanctified to this good man.† He found time to perform well all the regular duties of his office, and in the course of his life published *eighteen* pamphlets, mostly single sermons, delivered on special occasions.‡ One was an election sermon, 1751; two were anniversary, three funeral, and four ordination sermons. The others were on various subjects.

\* Funeral Sermon by Rev. James Cogswell of Windham.

† Not the daughter of Mr. Taylor's first wife, Elizabeth Fitch, to whom the *Dove* love-letter was sent, but of Mr. Taylor's second wife, Ruth Wyllis of Hartford. It is inscribed on Mrs. Lord's grave-stone, that she died after an illness of sixteen years, July 5, 1748, in the 52d year of her age. Dr. Lord's second wife was Elizabeth, relict of Henry Tisdale of Newport, R. I. The third, Abigail Hooker of Hartford. His children were all by the first wife.

‡ See Sprague's *Am. Pulpit*, Vol. 1, 299.

Dr. Lord had some peculiarities, perhaps more distinctive of the ministers of that age than of him as an individual. His first prayer at morning service on the Sabbath occupied the full run of the hour-glass at his side. He followed in his prayers the principal events that had transpired in his parish during the week,—deaths, accidents, storms,—and adverted to all public events of importance. In war time his supplications and thanksgivings were so particular and specific as to give the congregation the best information that had been received of the progress of affairs. Notes were sent up to the pulpit, not only in cases of sickness and death, but by persons departing on a journey or voyage, and also on returning from the same. Every thing in those days, either projected or accomplished, seems to have been prayed over.\*

On the 18th of March, 1778, Mr. Joseph Strong was ordained as colleague pastor with Dr. Lord. The audience, gathered from all parts of the county, was unexampled in point of numbers, and the services were unusually solemn. Dr. Lord was eighty-four years of age, venerated and beloved by all, but small and frail in appearance, while his colleague, in the full glow of youth and health, large and stoutly built, stood over him like a sheltering oak. The society committee were a stately group, honorable both for talents and piety. It consisted of Deacons Simon Tracy and Simon Huntington, Captain Christopher Leffingwell, Dudley Woodbridge, Esq., and Samuel Huntington, President of the Provincial Congress. Others who had acted on the committee were Joshua Lathrop, Elijah Backus, and Dr. Elisha Tracy.

Mr. Strong was the son of the Rev. Nathan Strong of Coventry. By his mother's side, he was descended from the Williams family, who were taken captives by the Indians at Deerfield, in the night of Feb. 28, 1704. The general circumstances of this tragedy are well known. The two little daughters of Mr. Williams who went into captivity with their father were named Eunice and Esther. The former was never redeemed, but being adopted into the family of a chief, she became attached to the Indian manners and customs, refused to return to her relatives, embraced the Roman Catholic religion, and married a chief named Roger Toroso, who resided at St. Johns, twenty miles from Montreal. Esther was ransomed and returned home with her father. She married the Rev. Mr. Meachum of Coventry, and one of her daughters became the wife of the Rev. Nathan Strong, who was ordained pastor of a Second Congregational Church in Coventry, in 1745, and was the father of the Rev. Nathan Strong, D. D., of Hartford, and the Rev. Joseph Strong, D. D., of Norwich. At the ordination of the latter, the sermon was preached by his

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\* It is said that a petition was once sent up to the pulpit for public prayer in behalf of a man *gone, going, or about to go* on a journey to Boston.



brother, and the charge given by his father. The text was from Isaiah, 52, 7. "How beautiful," &c. The scene was deeply affecting and impressive, particularly when the speaker turned to the young candidate and said:

"My dear brother,—I may now address you by that endearing epithet in all its senses. We received our being, under God, from the same parents, were educated by the same nurturing kindness, have professed obedience to the same glorious Father in Heaven, and this day introduces you a brother laborer in the Lord's vineyard. Very pleasant hast thou been unto me, my brother, and never was my pleasure greater in beholding thee, than on this day's solemnities. Long may your feet be beautiful on these mountains of Zion! The God of heaven bless and preserve thee."

Nor was the emotion of the audience less intense, when the father of the candidate, in solemn and affecting terms, where deep feeling contended with ministerial gravity, invested him with the priest's office, and addressing him as a dearly beloved son, charged him to take heed to the ministry which he had received, and to serve with his venerable colleague "as a son with a father, as a Timothy with Paul the aged."

At the time of Mr. Strong's settlement, there were two seceding congregations in the society, considerably numerous, but they soon became extinct, and an uncommon degree of peace and unanimity existed in the society, during the whole of his prolonged ministry.

Dr. Strong in person was above the middle size and stature, and he had a calm dignity of address which impressed every one with respect. This dignity, however, was blended with great kindness and courtesy, and his manners, far from inspiring awe, were gentle and attractive. In his latter years especially, it was delightful to listen to his conversation, flowing as it did in an easy, graceful stream, enlivened with anecdotes and enriched with sketches of character, curious incidents, and all the varied stores collected by an observant mind through long years of experience.

In the pulpit he was remarkable for the fluency and impressive solemnity of his prayers. The deep tones of his voice, combined with the devout humility of his address and the free flow of adoration and praise with which he approached the Father of spirits, would hush an audience into deep attention, and waft them, as it were, into the immediate presence of the Most High. His sermons were short, and copiously illustrated with quotations from Scripture, but wanting perhaps in vigorous argument. All his ministrations, in fact, were of a soothing and serene nature, not penetrating and awakening.

## FOURTH MEETING-HOUSE.

This edifice was so long unfinished, meeting with so many obstructions in its ascent from the foundation to the belfry, that it is difficult to date its beginning. Its history in brief would be—voted for in 1748, begun in 1753, completed about 1770, consumed to ashes in 1801.

The site was at the corner of the Green, under the rocks where the present church stands. The following vote seems to indicate the date when this spot was selected to receive the new structure :

10 March, 1752. Voted that all incumbrances be removed from the west side of the Meeting House plain under the site of ye Great Rocks by ye Town street, that said land may be free for public use.

The clearing was effected, and the street left open from the green to the printing-office. This was public land, and the wall of granite rose up grand and imposing by the side of the road, with shrubs and creepers hanging over and jutting out of the crevices, and with no disfigurations of man around the base, except posts and sheds for the convenience of those who rode to meeting on the Sabbath.

This fourth meeting-house of the society is said to have been a square building, with a front porch or platform.

In Society meeting Nov. 2, 1770.

Voted that a lead weight be attached to the front door of the meeting-house, that it may be more conveniently kept closed.

The interior was furnished with pews, a space in front of the pulpit excepted, where were slips for aged people and strangers. Low benches were placed in the aisles for children. The front of the pulpit displayed in large letters the sacred motto:\*

## HOLINESS BECOMETH GOD'S HOUSE.

On the Sabbath, the deacon, or some one of the church appointed in his place, lined the psalm, and the congregation sung in their seats, except a few leaders that stepped out in front of the pulpit and faced the audience. When choirs were first introduced into the Norwich churches, which was not long before the Revolution, many of the older people were disturbed at the innovation, and even shocked at the new tunes adopted, which, being sung with less quaver and drawl than formerly, seemed to them destitute of unction and suited only to the dance or drum-beat.

A town clock was purchased in 1745, and placed in the belfry. Watts' version of the Psalms was introduced into the service in 1772, and at the

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\* In 1790 the house was repaired and painted anew, and this motto omitted, which caused some dissatisfaction.



same time a large pulpit Bible was purchased. This was saved from the flames when the house was burnt in 1801. It is the London edition of 1769, containing the Apochrypha, Historical Index, and the Liturgy of the Church of England. Dwight's edition of the Psalms was adopted in 1803. In 1792 the society voted, with only one dissenting voice, to purchase an organ. This was soon after an organ had been obtained for the Episcopal Church at the Landing; but instrumental music in a Congregational service was then a rare if not an unknown accompaniment. Some difficulty occurred in procuring the instrument, and the project was dropped. An organ was not actually introduced into the service until 1818.

*Rates.* The minister's rate was an element of discord in the society. The Separatists sounded loud and long upon this string. When therefore Dr. Daniel Lathrop in 1782 bequeathed the sum of £500, the interest of which was to be expended in the support of the ministry, the society determined to take this opportunity to cast off the odious system of raising the minister's salary by rates, and establish a fund for that purpose, using the Lathrop legacy as a nucleus. A vote to this effect was passed April 10, 1783. A subscription paper was drawn up and committed to Mr. Jacob Witter, who volunteered his services for the occasion, and by personal visits and solicitation he secured the sum of £2,088 from one hundred subscribers. Dr. Joshua Lathrop subscribed £150, Christopher Leffingwell £80, and eight others each £50 and £60. The remainder was in smaller sums, but it was stated that all gave freely and even *joyfully* according to their ability, in the hope of never hearing again of distraint and seizure for ministerial rates.

Another step was to induce the pew-holders to relinquish their rights, so that the pews might be sold annually, and the avails applied to the same object. This was happily accomplished, except in the case of three individuals, who obstinately refused to give up their pews, averring that if they could not sit in the same place where they had hitherto sat, they would not go to meeting. This matter was, however, at length accommodated, the pews sold, and the fund advantageously employed; so that a sum was annually raised sufficient to discharge all ecclesiastical expenses, and the minister's rate tax happily abolished.

The first annual sale of pews was in 1791.

Dr. Strong's salary was never raised above the stipulated sum of \$444. except for a very few years, when an annual gratuity was added to it, on account of the high price of provisions. The financial arrangements at his settlement throw some light on the currency of the day. The society agreed to give him £300 as a settlement, in three annual payments of £100 each; a salary of £100 per annum for the first three years, and

after that term, £133.6.8 per annum. This was to be proportioned to wheat at 6s. per bushel; rye at 3s. 6d.; Indian corn at 3s.; pork at 3½d. per lb.; and the best grass-fed beef at 40s. per cwt. To this salary was added twenty five cords of wood annually, to be delivered at his door. The regulation of prices, in these times of fluctuating currency, was a matter of no small perplexity. For the first payment of Mr. Strong's settlement, he received £1200 in bills of credit, as an equivalent for £100. In 1779, £2500 in bills was equal to £100; and in 1780 he received for his salary £7200—72 to 1—being then the proportion between continental paper and silver money.

*Excise Money and Parsonage Land.* A grant of money derived from the Excise duty was made by the Legislature to Chelsea Society in 1764, to assist in building their first meeting-house. This was regarded by the First Society as a species of favoritism. They claimed that a fair proportion of the excise tax gathered in the town belonged to them, and therefore in 1767, and again in 1769, they memorialized the Legislature for an appropriation of a sum similar to that which had been awarded to Chelsea for their use. This was not granted.

Chelsea Society, on the other hand, laid claim to a share of the Parsonage land which had been purchased by the town at an early period for the benefit of the ministry. This was long a subject of dispute and litigation. The parsonage land included the site of the old hill-top church, the jail, and the whole range of buildings on the north-west side of the Green. The lessees paid a small ground rent to the society.

In 1799, these lands were adjudicated to the First Society, and the occupants relinquished their claims, accepting in lieu thereof, leases for 999 years, at a penny per acre, if demanded.



## CHAPTER XXVI.

### BRIDGES AND FRESHETS.

NORWICH being surrounded and intersected with rivers and brooks, and peculiarly exposed to accidents and injury from heavy rains and spring floods, the subject of bridges becomes unusually prominent in her history. Bridges of considerable magnitude over the Yantic, at the west end of the settlement, and near the plain, must have been coeval with the laying out of the town, and roads could not have been opened and rendered safe for traveling in any direction without spanning a multitude of small streams with some kind of stone-work, or with timber and plank, and these perhaps the next spring flood would sweep away. Consequently the work of building and repairing bridges was always beginning, ever going on, and never completed.

The earlier bridges were built and kept in order by the inhabitants as highway work. In April, 1717, a petition was presented to the General Assembly "for assistance in building a cart bridge over Showtucket at the falls." It does not appear that any assistance was granted by lottery or otherwise, and it is probable that this first bridge over the Shetucket was built in the usual way, by a general turn-out of the inhabitants.

The site of this bridge was just above the place where the Quinebaug and Shetucket unite. It connected Norwich proper with Newent society, in the crotch of the rivers, and the road leading from it over Ox hill was the path by which the early inhabitants of Newent came on the Sabbath to attend religious services in the town-plot, crossing the river, before the bridge was built, on a scow or ferry-boat.

A bridge has been maintained at this place or near it, from that time to the present, and known by the name of Lathrop's bridge, taking its designation from the nearest prominent resident and landholder.

In the freshet of February, 1727, four of the town bridges were swept away, and among them was this which crossed the Shetucket.

The rebuilding of this bridge in 1728 was marked by a mournful casualty. It was the 28th of June. A large party of the inhabitants had assembled to assist in raising the bridge, which was 20 feet high and about 250 feet in length. Just as they were putting together the upper

work, a principal piece of timber which lay in the foundation of this upper work, being spliced, gave way at the joint, and falling, tripped up the dependent frame, which with its own weight careened and overset, breaking down the pillars on which it rested. One hundred feet of the bridge fell, with forty men on it. The water was very low, and the people were precipitated upon the rocks in all directions. No one escaped without bruises and contusions; twenty were severely wounded, and two killed. These two were Jonathan Gale of Canterbury, nineteen years of age, the only son of a widowed mother, who was killed instantly,—“a very hopeful youth, the darling of the family,”—and Mr. Daniel Tracy, son of Lieut. Thomas Tracy, and one of the last survivors of the old stock that came from Saybrook, who died the next day of his mortal wounds.

An account of this calamity was published in a small pamphlet,\* in which the writer compared the appearance of the dead and wounded, after their extrication from the ruins, to the aspect of a battle-field after a hot action. Messengers were sent abroad for aid, who spread through the town imperfect accounts of the sad event.

Hundreds hastened to the spot with biers and teams, and all necessary appliances for relieving or removing the sufferers, and “men of skill for wounds and broken bones” were not slow in offering aid.

“The men most considerably wounded [says the pamphlet account] are,

Lieut. Samuel Butts,	Samuel Lawrence,
Josias Reed,	Joseph Safford,
Ambrose Blunt,	Joseph Knight,
John Bishop,	Benjamin Knight,
John Elderkin,	Samuel Parrish,
David Lamb,	Ebenezer Harris,
Nathaniel Walton,	Josiah Bates,
Solomon Lothrop,	James Longbottom,
Jacob Perkins,	John Longbottom,
Thomas Gates,	Josias Molton.

Some of these had their ribs, some their arms, and others their legs broken, besides other bones shivered and dislocated; others had wounds, cuts and bruises in their heads, faces, bodies, arms, legs and feet, and some exceedingly bruised within. Some of them were at first taken out and laid by for dead, and the recovery of some for several days much doubted, but since they are all like to recover.”

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\* Entitled,—AN ACCOUNT of the Surprising Events of Providence, which hapned at the Raising of a Bridge in Norwich, June 28th, 1728.

With some Affecting Remarks wove into the HISTORY. As also some practical Improvement thereof. Published at the Desire of some concerned therein, to the End it may be Preserved as a Profitable Remembrancer of the Danger and Deliverance of This Day.

New London, Printed and Sold by T. Green, August 7th, 1728.



Many hair-breadth escapes occurred. Solomon Lathrop fell forty feet from the top of a needle post, and was pitched head foremost between two rocks, into a hole of deeper water than ordinary, and yet not killed. This Mr. Lathrop was father to the Rev. Joseph Lathrop of West Springfield, who was born about three years after this narrow escape of his parent.

"Mr. Tracy [says the cotemporary narrative] was not a person concerned in the affair, only as he was a benefactor to it, and went out that day to carry the people some provision, and happened to be on the bridge, at that juncture of danger: a man that had been always noted for an uncommon care to keep himself and others out of probable danger, and yet now himself insensibly falls into a fatal one. And very remarkable is it, that to keep his son at home this day, and so out of danger by that occasion, he chooseth to go himself on the forenamed errand, and is taken in the snare which he thought more probable to his son."

## THE GRAVE-STONE RECORD.

[Head.]

[Foot.]

HERE LIES ye BODY  
OF MR. DANIEL  
TRACY . . . WHO  
DIED JVNE Ye  
29 . . 1728 . . AGED  
76 YEARS.

MR.  
DANIEL TRACY.  
THIS WORTHY IN  
A GOOD OLD AGE  
DIED BY A FALL  
FROM A BRIDGE.

It would be difficult, if not impossible, to ascertain how many times Lathrop's bridge has been rebuilt, or rather how many bridges have been erected at this point since 1717, when the first timbers were laid over the river. From intimations in the records we learn that a new and substantial bridge was built "over the Shetucket near Capt. Lathrop's," in 1764.\* Again in 1791 the town action shows that "a bridge was to be built at Mr. Zephaniah Lathrop's between Lisbon and Norwich: the river being there 212 feet wide at high water mark," and a rate was granted to cover the expense.

Since the present century came in, this bridge was partially destroyed by the ice, Feb. 15, 1805; the shock coming so suddenly that a man crossing at that time was carried down the stream, and with difficulty rescued from the current. Two years later, in the freshet of March 2, 1807, the bridge was entirely swept away.

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\* 1768. It was ordered, that when a town meeting was to be warned, a written notification should be set up on the Little Elm before Capt. Ebenezer Lathrop's door.

A bridge built at this place in 1817, at an expense of \$10,000, was destroyed March 6, 1823. At this time the flood lifted it from the abutment and piers, and bore it along in position, unbroken, till it came to the rapids near the mouth of the river. It then separated into three parts, and glided with graceful ease into the Thames.

In 1836, the Norwich and Worcester Railroad Company in crossing the Shetucket located their bridge upon the site of the old Lathrop bridge, which was then about to be once more rebuilt. An arrangement was made with the town, by which the latter consented to take up a new position for their bridge, a short distance higher up the river, the company paying all expenses over and above what would have been incurred by retaining the former site.

The bridge erected at that time lasted well, wore out in the service, and was finally swept away, Feb. 9, 1857. A new one has since taken its place.

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In 1750, or near that period, the following bridges were maintained by the town:

1. Over Bradford's or Susquetomscot brook, on the road to Lebanon.
2. Great Pond brook, on the road to Colchester.
3. Pease's brook. These were the three branches of the Yantic.
4. At Bean Hill. 5. Quarter bridge. 6. The Court-House bridge.
7. No-man's Acre bridge. These four crossed the Yantic.
8. Beaver's brook, in West Farms Society.
9. Trading Cove brook, on the road to New London.
10. Elderkin's bridge, on the road to Windham.
11. "Wood's bridge over Showtuckett, north of Pettipaug." This was afterward Lord's bridge, uniting Franklin with Lisbon.
12. Lovett's bridge. 13. Lathrop's bridge.

The last four were over the Shetucket.

14. Johnson's bridge over the Quinebaug, on the road to Plainfield.
15. Pachaug bridge, east of the Quinebaug.

These were all constructed and kept in order by rates and highway labor. Whiting's bridge, at the mouth of the Shetucket, was extant at this time, but was supported by toll.

Lovett's bridge, mentioned above, was about three miles above Lathrop's, on the road from Norwich to Woodstock. In this vicinity, on the west side of the river, were the Leffingwell and Kirtland farms, and on the east the Lovetts were proprietors. These ancient bridges often took the name of the nearest resident landholder, and the large Lovett farm-house near the bridge, serving also as a house of entertainment for wayfarers, with its lofty shade-trees, its swinging sign, its inviting horse-sheds and other



dependencies, had the appearance of a small hamlet. The name—Lovett's bridge—has since given place to that of Eagleville, a manufacturing establishment which has taken possession of the neighborhood, occupying, like most of our inland mills, a choice position in the midst of romantic scenery.

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The first bridge near the mouth of the Shetucket, uniting Chelsea Landing with Preston, was built by Capt. William Whiting,\* who, for this purpose, in 1737, obtained a loan of £80 from the town treasury. It was designed to be a free bridge, and in order to enable the contractor to meet the payment of the loan, in December, 1737, a subscription was opened in town meeting, and the sum of £85 15s. pledged for his use. The number of contributors was eighty-three, and the sums varied from 5s. to £5. The highest on the list were Joshua Huntington, John Williams, Samuel and John Story, Isaac Clarke, and Samuel Backus, probably the men doing the most business at the time.

Subsequent subscriptions raised the amount to £130, but the contractor stating that the bridge had cost £350, he was permitted to remunerate himself by a toll upon travelers.

In 1744, after six years wear, Whiting's bridge having sagged so much as to be pronounced unsafe, was blocked up for a short period, and then repaired by Lieut. John Edgerton, who was recompensed by the toll for the space of three years. It continued in use till 1748, when it was again condemned.

In 1751, after discussion of the subject in town meeting,

“Voted, that the town will join with Mr. John Edgerton in a memorial to the General Assembly to grant a lottery for the making of a Great Bridge over the mouth of Shoutuckett, toll free.” Joseph Tracy was appointed agent.

The lottery was granted, and Edgerton's bridge built. It was 200 feet long, cost £4,000, old tenor, and notwithstanding its charter that it should be *free*, permission to take toll was granted by the General Assembly. It was swept away by the freshets of 1762.

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\* Three persons of the name of Whiting, residents of Norwich, were bridge-builders. Capt. William Whiting, who built the Shetucket bridge in 1737, was a son of the Rev. Samuel Whiting of Windham, and a resident in the north-west part of Norwich, now Bozrah. He was afterwards distinguished for his gallantry in the French wars upon the frontier. Dr. Dwight, in his travels, (Vol. 1, p. 497,) observes that the bridge at West Boston, erected in 1793, at a cost of \$76,000, was built under the direction of “Major Whiting of Norwich.” This was Ebenezer Whiting, father of the late Capt. Edward Whiting of Norwich, and a descendant of Col. William Whiting, an early inhabitant of Hartford, who was brother of the Rev. Samuel of Windham.

Zenas Whiting of Norwich was known extensively as a bridge-builder. In 1794 he went to New Hampshire with a gang of twenty men, and built a bridge over the Piscataqua river.

The next bridge at this place is sufficiently described in the following newspaper article :

June 20, 1764. "Leffingwell's Bridge over Shetucket river at Norwich Landing is completed. It is 124 feet in length, and 28 feet above the water. Nothing is placed between the abutments, but the bridge is supported by Geometry work above and calculated to bear a weight of 500 tons. The work is by Mr. John Bliss, one of the most curious mechanics of the age. The bridge was raised in two days and no one hurt. The former bridge was 28 days in raising."

This bridge retained its position, and the proprietor was allowed a portion of the toll for fourteen years. But in 1777 it was much injured by floods, and the town having purchased Leffingwell's remaining interest, united with Preston in petitioning the Legislature (May session, 1778,) for leave to raise money by lottery for the erection of a new bridge. The petition was granted.

The managers of the lottery were Christopher Leffingwell, Jacob De Witt, William and Benjamin Coit, Jeremiah Halsey, and Roger Sterry—the two last, of Preston. Their advertisement states the lottery to have been granted in order "to prevent the incumbrance of a toll bridge, or a dangerous ferry, with one or other of which the public have been hampered for near a century past." The lottery was drawn the first Monday in March, 1779.

In the meantime the two towns could not agree upon the place where the bridge should stand. Committees were appointed, one after another, but they came to no decision. In 1780 the matter was referred to three well-known citizens, mutually respected and honored by the towns, viz., Hon. Benjamin Huntington, Capt. Ebenezer Baldwin, and Elijah Lathrop, Esq., who reported that in their opinion *the best and only convenient place* for a bridge was where the late one stood, that is, below the ferry and near the mouth of the river. Whereupon it was ordered that the bridge should be forthwith erected at that place. The building committee appointed were John McLarran Breed, John Bliss, and Stephen Culver.

The bridge, however, does not appear to have been built, and the selectmen were charged to keep the ferry over the Shetucket under proper regulation for the public convenience. In May, 1783, the town petitioned the Legislature for another lottery to raise £450, on the same plea as the former, "for building a bridge at the mouth of Shetucket river." The lottery was granted, and the bridge built in 1784.

From the above data we are led to the conclusion that a bridge at this place was all the time being projected or being built, and lotteries were in progress to pay for it from 1777 to 1784,—or that two bridges were built in seven years, and the first swept away by some sudden, unrecorded calamity. It is most probable that there was but one bridge built.



The abutments of the bridge were much injured by the freshet of 1788, but after being repaired and strengthened, it continued to perform acceptable service till 1793, when it was again thoroughly repaired by Capt. Stephen Culver, who contracted to keep it in repair for four years. At the end of this period it was condemned.

The stone bridge over Swallow-all brook in East Chelsea was rebuilt in 1795. Destroyed by the freshet of 1807, it was again reconstructed, and now lies beneath the street.

In October, 1797, a joint committee of Norwich and Preston reported concerning a new bridge over the Shetucket. They had examined different positions in order to ascertain the most eligible place, and estimated the cost, if built near what was called *the riding-way*,\* at \$3,083; if built near Rufus Roath's, at \$3,833; if near the mouth, where the bridge now stands, not more than \$2,000. The bridge was built on the site of the former, and the expense liquidated by the avails of a lottery. This fifth bridge stood for twelve or thirteen years.

In 1815, the town records allude to the "*enormous expenses*" to which the town had been for many years subject for the support of bridges.

In 1813, a committee that had been appointed to decide whether "the Geometry Bridge at Chelsea" could be repaired, or a new one must be built, reported that the decay of the old structure rendered an entirely new bridge a matter of necessity. This led the way to a change of operations. A petition was presented to the General Assembly for liberty to open a new highway and span the river in a more convenient and safe situation. To accomplish this purpose, the Norwich and Preston Bridge Company was incorporated in 1816, and the next year a toll-bridge erected nearly half a mile above the mouth of the river. A road leading to it—East Main st.—was opened in 1817, and the public travel took this direction. The contractor for the bridge was Capt. John Lathrop of Windham, and the expense \$10,000. It was supported by heavy stone piers, and withstood the rush of the spring floods for six years, but was not proof against the destructive freshet of March 6, 1823. All the upper works were then carried away, but the company rebuilt on the same foundation at an expense of \$5,000. In 1858 this bridge was sold by the company to the towns of Norwich and Preston for \$7,500.

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*Giddings' Bridge.* This was a structure built in 1757, which crossed the Shetucket below the old riding-way, and about a mile from the mouth of the river. The undertakers were Nathaniel Giddings of Preston and Nathaniel Backus, Jr., of Norwich, who contracted to build "a cart bridge

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\* There were two fords or *riding-ways* over the Shetucket. In 1780, one is called "the upper riding-way in Doctor Perkins's intervale."

over the river near the dwelling-house of Samuel Roath." The town voted to pay for the plank on condition that no toll should be demanded of the inhabitants of Norwich. These early bridges, being supported mainly by heaps of stones, and studs driven into the bed of the river, could offer but slight resistance to the crushing piles of ice that came down with the released waters in the time of floods. Giddings' bridge had a brief existence, and there is no record found of any other constructed at that point in the river.

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*Laurel Hill Bridge.* In the year 1853, John W. Stedman, Thomas Robinson, John A. Rockwell, Henry Bill, Amos Davis, and others who had become interested in the purchase and settlement of Laurel Hill, subscribed among themselves for the erection of a free bridge over the Shetucket, and obtained an act of incorporation for that purpose. The bridge was built the same year, at an expense of \$4,000. It spans the river at the old place,—the precise spot chosen by Whiting in 1737, and occupied by five successive bridges in former times.

The proprietors also threw open a new road along the bank of the river toward Poquetannock, furnishing a drive of two or three miles with a varied and beautiful landscape spreading before the eye in its whole course. The bridge has since been repaired and covered, and was retained as private property until 1860, when the charter was relinquished and the bridge left to the public care. It was repaired in 1864.

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*Greeneville Bridge.* In 1854, Norwich and Preston united in building a bridge over the Shetucket at Greeneville, where the river had never been spanned before. It was 375 feet long, and 30 wide. The petition for it was signed by James D. Mowry and 140 others. Greeneville then contained about 2,000 inhabitants. This bridge became conspicuously the victim of elemental fury. Shaken to pieces by the floods, and reconstructed in 1858, it was destroyed by fire July 29, 1862; damage estimated at \$8,000.

It has been rebuilt of iron, at the joint expense of the two towns, and was completed in October, 1863. It is 370 feet long, 17 feet wide, and cost, exclusive of the abutments, \$10,000. The contractor was J. E. Truesdell of Springfield.

In reviewing the history of these short-lived bridges, and observing the tendency of the smaller ones to swing aside at every flood and scatter themselves in fragments over the land, and of the larger ones to embark on desperate voyages to the ocean, hurried onward by thronging blocks of



ice or furious torrents, we might be tempted to think that Norwich stood pre-eminent, at the summit of misfortune in this respect. But that some of her neighbors share with her in the highest round of the ladder, may be inferred from a communication received by the selectmen of Norwich from the town of Canterbury in 1780, in which they lament the great and unequal expense which they and several towns labor under, above other towns in the State, "by being obliged to build and maintain many great bridges over large rivers;" and they request a committee of conference to be appointed to consider of some mode of relief.\*

A committee was appointed, but there was no help found for the evil; every town was obliged to attend to its own bridges, and the Legislature gave no relief but by lotteries.

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*Wharf Bridge.* The erection of a bridge over the cove, or mouth of the Yantic, so as to connect the point with the west side, was a project of considerable magnitude. It required a longer span than any bridge that had been built in the eastern part of Connecticut. A proposition for such a bridge was brought before the public in 1767, by Mr. Gershom Breed. He seems to have originated the plan, and at last to have made it popular by his influence and exertions. The undertakers were Gershom Breed, Eleazar Waterman, and Jonathan Lester; the builder, Christopher Reed.

Objections were made to the erection, on the ground of danger from the high and precipitous hills on each side. The declivity on the east was particularly stony and abrupt, making the descent to the river more like a plunge than a regular progress. The natural features of the place have been so greatly altered by a long course of leveling and filling up, that we find it difficult to reproduce to the mind's eye those beetling cliffs that were here projected almost to the water's edge. It was argued also that the communication with the west side was not of sufficient importance to justify the undertaking. The town gave liberty for the bridge to be built, but, influenced by these objections, declined contributing to the expense.

The undertakers nevertheless commenced operations, and the bridge was built in 1771. A small sum for partial indemnification was raised by lottery, the managers being Daniel Lathrop, William Hubbard, and Jedidiah Huntington.

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\* It was while engaged in repairing a bridge over the Quinebaug, between Canterbury and Plainfield, which had been partially destroyed in a severe freshet, that the first David Nevins of Connecticut lost his life. He was standing on one of the cross beams of the bridge, giving directions to the workmen, and had his watch in his hand, which he had just taken out to see the time, when, losing his balance, he fell into the swollen stream, was swept down by the current, and drowned before he could be rescued. This was in the spring of 1757.

This bridge, though merely an experimental work, was found to be a great public convenience. A vast quantity of labor remained to be performed in the way of grading and preparing the roads that led to it. Numerous meetings were held, and plans discussed, which ended in a decision that the bridge should be enlarged, improved, strengthened against floods, and rendered passable for loaded teams. For this purpose, another lottery was granted by the Legislature in October, 1773, to raise £278 or \$926 "*for finishing and completing the great Wharf Bridge at Chelsea in Norwich.*" Managers, Joshua Lathrop, Rufus Lathrop, and Samuel Tracy. It was drawn in May, 1774.\*

The importance of this bridge has never since admitted of question. It is a thoroughfare which the public good requires to be always kept in a condition fit for service. Therefore the damages it has sustained by flood, fire, or the wear and tear of years, have always been speedily repaired, and it seems rather like one and the same bridge, than as it really is, and as all others of the town have been,—a succession of bridges.

The highway near this bridge was originally a part of Mr. Breed's house-lot. The building of this bridge led to improvements in all the avenues connected with it. The highway below the Episcopal church was widened; the road on the west side, running from the bridge to Sandy Beach, was improved; and a new one opened from the Landing to the New London road.

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*Freshets.* The annual breaking up of the ice in the rivers is so often attended with a destructive overflow of the waters, that it is usually contemplated prospectively with some degree of apprehension. When the rains come, and the ice begins to crack, mills and bridges perchance may be swept away, meadow lands devastated, fences destroyed, and serious losses sustained. Some parts of the town are peculiarly exposed to such ravages. The narrow and winding outlet of the Shetucket, and the high banks that restrain it on the south, naturally tend to throw the accumulated swell of the river over the flat part of Chelsea.

Only a few of the most remarkable spring floods can be here chronicled.

Sept. 4, 1720. "The flood raised Norwich river to a prodigious height; stacks of hay floated down; it carried away the bridge by the meeting house and much fence." [Hempstead's Diary.]

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\* This lottery had 2,000 tickets at \$2.50; highest prize, \$3,000. Paper bills were received and paid out promiscuously with silver. The petition for the lottery was signed by eighty of the principal citizens. In looking over the list in 1837, sixty-five years after the signing, only one of the eighty was living, viz., Capt. David Nevins. He died in January, 1838, aged 91 years.



The Boston News-Letter notices an extraordinary flood of the Shetucket at Norwich, 28th of February, 1729. The warehouses at the Landing were much injured, but the newspaper adds the compensatory information, "there was fine bass-fishing after it,"—twenty thousand bass having been taken in the river a little below the point.

A thaw and freshet of unusual power and rapidity of action occurred Jan. 16, 1737. The Shetucket above its outlet being impeded by a solid bed of ice, the rushing flood was suddenly thrown back, and spreading over the low land, rose to twenty feet in ten minutes, sweeping off three warehouses with all their contents, and injuring several others. Blocks of ice were left in some instances on the roofs of buildings.

In the spring of 1757, a severe flood committed great havoc with the bridges and other works of man exposed to its fury.

Jan. 8, 1784, was distinguished by a yet greater and more sweeping freshet, which affected both the Yantic and the Shetucket. Several mills and bridges on the upper courses were swept away, and large quantities of lumber came floating down the streams. Happily there was but little ice in the Thames, to obstruct the downward flow, and Chelsea escaped inundation. A slaughter-house near the wharf bridge was swept off with all its contents, beef, hides, tallow, cooperage, and tools, and not a vestige left.

The freshet of February, 1788, was destructive to the smaller bridges. Lovett's was entirely demolished, and many others so much injured as to make reconstruction necessary.

The year 1789 was marked by a June freshet. For two days, the 10th and 11th of the month, the rains were continuous and flood-like, causing a rapid rise in all the streams that feed the Thames. The Shetucket and Yantic, swollen by their impetuous tributaries, sweeping aside bridges, mills and dams, deluging corn-fields, and precipitating large rocks upon the meadows, came rushing down upon Norwich Landing, and lifted the river nearly to a level with its lower tier of roofs. This flood, however, was of brief duration. The waters passed over with a furious swash, and then quietly subsided.

Jan. 29, 1797, was marked by a peculiar freshet resulting from a January thaw. The smaller rivers were broken up, and heavy blocks of ice sweeping downwards committed great havoc in their course. The courthouse bridge was so thoroughly broken up that only a heap of fragments remained. It was compared to a wreck made by thousands of hammers.

After the present century came in, the first great flood was in 1807. The rivers began to break up on Saturday night, Feb. 7th. The cracking of the vast blocks of ice was like the crash of thunder. The Shetucket rose eighteen or twenty feet. Lord's and Lathrop's bridges were swept away. On Sunday morning, fire was cried through the streets, and alarm

bells were rung. For many years no such inundation had been known. The current swept over East Chelsea, and for a time gave it the appearance of a lake, with a few houses lifting their roofs above the waters.

The flood rose so rapidly that several families were taken by surprise and imprisoned in their houses. They retreated to the upper stories, but when the water came within a few inches of the second floors, it was considered unsafe for them to remain, and they were brought away in boats, into which they dropped from the windows.\* From hill to hill, all Franklin and East Main street was an expanse of water.

At the intersection of the streets, from the corner where now stands the Wauregan hotel to the opposite corner, a temporary embankment was raised with great celerity and good effect. It was composed of timbers, spars, rails, and wood, secured by heavy stones, and filled in with hay, straw, canvas, and any thing that would resist leakage; and though the waters slightly trickled over this breastwork, it kept off the great volume of water until the river subsided, which was in the course of a few hours.

From subsequent town acts and accounts, we obtain the result of bridge damage from this freshet. The stone bridge over Swallow-all brook, and Lathrop's bridge, were rebuilt; Lovett's repaired; Geometry bridge, abutments replaced; Wharf bridge, Court-house and Quarter bridges repaired.

In September, 1815, at the equinox, a most destructive gale of wind was experienced on the coast of New England. At Chelsea the tide rose to an unprecedented height. Several stores on the wharves were swept entirely away, and others injured. On the wharf bridge the depth of water was five or six feet; beating over it with such fury as to carry off the market and a store adjoining. The market drifted up the river and lodged on the east side of the cove, thirty or forty yards above the bridge. The brig Mary and several sloops and schooners were driven ashore, knocking in the sides of stores, and lodging almost in the streets.

A remarkable freshet occurred on the 6th of March, 1823, which was caused by a rain of twenty-four hours continuance falling upon a deep snow. Six bridges over the Yantic were carried away, viz., three in Norwich, two in Bozrah, [at Col. Fitch's iron-works and Bozrahville,] and one in Franklin. The oil-mill at Bean Hill was swept off, and the oil-mill and machine-shop near the Falls much injured. On the wharf bridge some of the buildings were shifted in their position, or partly turned round, and the Methodist chapel, which stood on the bridge, was swept away entire, moving off majestically like a ship from her moorings,

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\* Capt. Rockwell's family was removed in this way. By the gradual filling in of the street, the site of the ancient Rockwell house is several feet higher than formerly.



bowing to the waves and righting herself again, floating a mile down the river before any part of it was broken, and the frame keeping together, according to report, until it passed into the Sound. It had been decorated with evergreens for some previous festive occasion, and these ornaments had not been removed when it sailed so gallantly away. This incident of the wrecked church gave rise to many exaggerative and fanciful stories. The newspapers alleged that it bore off both pastor and flock, and that they were heard singing as they passed New London. They reported also that it had landed whole on one of the islands, and that services would be performed there in future. A schooner from Providence, then in the Sound, asserted that it came driving by them in the night with lights in it.\*

So great was the force of the water brought down by this flood, that the Yantic was considerably deepened in some places by the removal of large stones. One that weighed more than a ton, and which had been placed in the bed of the river many years before, to support a foot-bridge, was raised, carried up into a meadow, and thrown against a large tree. An oil-mill was swept off, with a considerable quantity of flax-seed in it. By the middle of May, several meadows adjoining the river were covered with young flax.

March 11, 1835, ushered in a freshet similar to that of 1823, the water rising twelve or fifteen feet. The walls, sheds, and small buildings along the banks of the Shetucket were swept away like chaff. Lathrop's bridge was broken up; a shanty used by workmen on the Norwich and Worcester Railroad was carried past the city without breaking; another building in which some persons were collected was submerged nearly to the roof, and the occupants were taken from it by boats. Two horses which were carried away and were seen passing down the river, helplessly tossed about in the torrent, formed an impressive feature of the scene.

Feb. 8, 1854, most of the wharves were submerged by the breaking up of the ice, and the basements of buildings near the river filled with water. Central wharf and the Junction railway were overflowed. At the freight depot of the New London and Norwich Railroad, the rails were covered to the depth of eighteen inches.

On the 30th of April, the same year, a violent storm caused another inundation; the currents of the Yantic and Shetucket struggling together, threw the water back, and the wharf bridge was partially destroyed.

The 9th and 10th of February, 1857, were marked by a freshet which might be called the Half-century Flood, as occurring so near the anniversary of that of 1807. The destruction of property was greatest in the

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\* This incident gave rise to a little poem, by Brainerd, called "The Captain." Though but a fragmentary production, it is very graphic and highly finished.

last instance. The heavy timbers from Lord's and Lathrop's bridges came floating down with fearful power. In the flood of 1807 it was East Chelsea that was submerged, the rise of water being in the Shetucket and in Stony brook; but in that of 1857, the water front of the city was swept over by the raging flood. The river below was blocked up by the ice, and the loosened streams meeting with this obstruction, were thrown back upon the wharves and buildings of Water street in a sudden deluge, which however performed its mission at once, and having opened a passage below, rapidly retreated.

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CENSUS OF NORWICH, JAN. 1, 1774.

			Persons.	Families.	Dwelling-houses.
First Society,	-	-	1978	317	283
West "	-	-	875	133	111
Newent, -	-	-	641	98	92
East, -	-	-	1100	76	69
New Concord, -	-	-	932	146	130
Chelsea, -	-	-	1019	127	104
Hanover, -	-	-	323	53	44
Eighth, -	-	-	453	74	68
			<hr/> 7321	<hr/> 1024	<hr/> 901
Males under 10,	-	-	-	-	1099
Females "	-	-	-	-	1054
Males between 10 and 20,	-	-	-	-	916
Females " "	-	-	-	-	749
Males between 20 and 70,	-	-	-	-	1468
Females " "	-	-	-	-	1574
Males above 70,	-	-	-	-	78
Females "	-	-	-	-	94

In 1779, number of families in First Society, 367 ; persons, 2184. In Chelsea, 129 families, 1111 persons.

In 1775, Norwich ranked as the second town in the Grand List of the Colony :

New Haven, £73,210.6.2.

Norwich, £66,678.29.2.

Farmington was third on the list, and only £101 less than Norwich.

Hartford stood at £48,120.10.



## CHAPTER XXVII.

### FIRST NEWSPAPER, THE NORWICH PACKET.

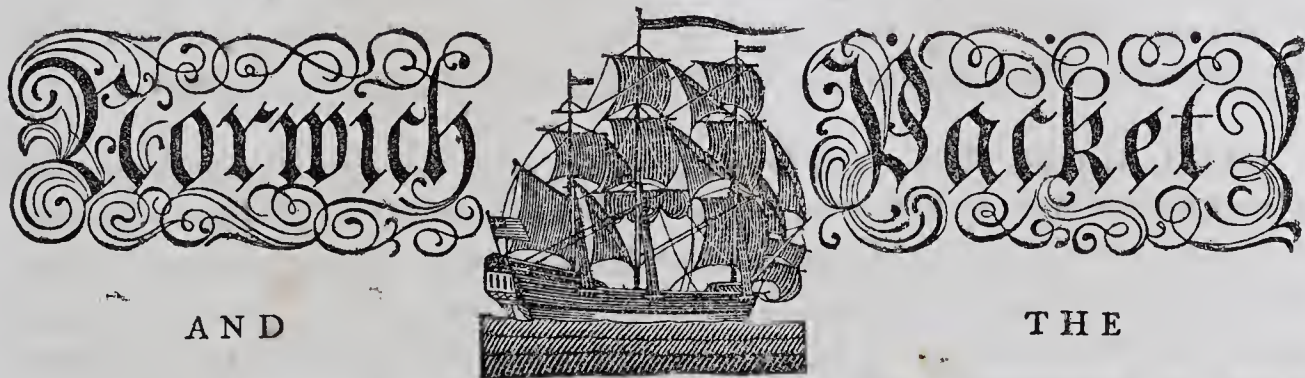
IN 1773, the first Newspaper was established in Norwich. The proprietors and printers were Alexander Robertson, James Robertson, and John Trumbull, under the firm of Robertsons & Trumbull. It had a flourishing head-piece inclosing the rude cut of a ship under full sail, and an imposing title, making pretensions to a wide circulation, as represented below in reduced size.

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OCTOBER, MDCCLXXIII.

VOL. I. NUMBER 3.

THE



AND

THE

CONNECTICUT,

MASSACHUSETTS,

NEW-HAMPSHIRE &

RHODE-ISLAND

WEEKLY ADVERTISER.

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From THURSDAY, OCT. 14, to THURSDAY, OCT. 21, 1773.

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Price, six shillings and eight pence per annum.

The press was at first set up in an office "at the foot of the Green, near the Court House," but in July, 1775, was removed to a new building "near the Meeting House," which from that time forth, for fifty years or more, was known as Trumbull's printing-office.

At that eventful era, when the great struggle for liberty commenced, Norwich might be taken as a fair model of the best class of New England towns. The streets were lively with industry and enterprise, and the society was ahead of most others in educational facilities, literary culture, and the embellishments of domestic life.

The memory of this period was long kept green in the hearts and minds of those inhabitants who lived into after generations. They looked back to it as to a golden age of hearty social enjoyment, where economy and hospitality went hand in hand, and stateliness harmonized with simplicity. It was a period when a moderate degree of prosperity satisfied desire, destroying anxiety for the future, without awakening the greed for superfluous wealth; when apparel and furniture were gay and glittering, but not extravagant; when few were so rich as not to be kept vigorous and bright by daily attention to business, and few were so poor as not to command a plentiful table; when thought was expansive and bold in speculations concerning liberty, but had not yet deepened into solemn considerations of the rights of man.

We are not wholly dependent on tradition for vivid sketches of this great transition period. A community is photographed in its local papers, and a lively impression of the general affairs and domestic pursuits of the town may be gathered from the contemporary numbers of the *Norwich Packet*.

As the early files of this paper are now very rare, a few excerpts relating to local affairs may prove interesting.

[1773.] Oct. 28. The season has been so very mild, that a mess of green peas was picked the last week in this town, spontaneously grown from seed produced this year.

Dec. 13. The officers and soldiers who belonged to Gen. Lyman's regiment of Provincials, and were at the taking of Havannah, are notified to meet at the house of Mr. John Durgie,\* Innholder, in Norwich, to enquire why the last dividend of their prize money has not been paid, &c.

Marriages were notified in such terms as these :

Nov. 1773. Last Thursday evening, Mr. Mundator Traey, an accomplished young gentleman, was married to the agreeable Caroline Bushnell, a young lady endowed with every qualification to make the connubial state happy.

John Chester, Esq. of Wethersfield, to the amiable Miss Elizabeth Huntington, daughter of Col. Jabez Huntington.

Deaths in this way:

Feb. 17, 1774. On Friday last, departed this life at Pomcehoag, her saffron colored majesty, Ann Queen Dowager, of the Monahagan Indians, and yesterday her remains were interred in a manner suitable to her high rank, in the Indian burying ground at Chelsea.

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\* The popular pronunciation of Durkee.





*Bela F. Eck*

BELA F. ECK





Feb. 10, 1774. Yesterday, Mr. James Burnam, of this town, brought to market a sled load of wood, which completes the number of 2,500 loads, which he has drove in himself, 4 miles, and sold since 1754. A great part he cut himself—all but 50 loads on his own land—all which he has done without upsetting a cart, breaking a wheel or sled, bruising a finger, or injuring an ox or horse by any wound. He sold his wood for £820;—has about 5 times as much more on his land, which he intends leaving for some other person to cart and draw, he having done his full share that way. He has also expended 500 days of labour on 2 acres of land, in subduing and fencing it.

From another article respecting this Mr. James Burnham,—a large-minded, hard-working farmer,—we learn that in 1760 his house and furniture had been consumed by fire; that he replaced his loss with a comfortable house neatly furnished; built 400 rods of stone-wall with his own hands; gave the public a highway through his land of 100 rods; built and painted a school-house and gave it to the district, and for several years had chiefly supplied it with fuel. Such an example of unselfish enterprise with limited means, in a secluded sphere, deserves to be perpetuated.

1774, Feb. 11. By Capt. Holmes who arrived at Stonington last Sunday from the West Indies, we hear the melancholy news of the death of Capt. William Billings of this town, who died about the beginning of January last of a fever at Dominica. His death is universally lamented by all his acquaintance.\*

March 3, 1774. A number of Physicians in the County of New London, taking into consideration the importance of those that enter the practice of Physick being endued with competent knowledge to prosecute the undertaking in such a manner as shall best promote the publick good; request their brethren of the Faculty in said County to meet at the house of Mr. Azariah Lathrop in Norwich on Thursday the 24th inst. at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, to consider upon the matter and prefer a Memorial to the General Assembly at their next Session, that the Practice of Physick may be put under some better regulation.

This memorial was signed by Theophilus Rogers and ten other physicians. It was the first step toward medical organization in Connecticut.† The Assembly at this time declined acting upon the petition, but after the Revolution several medical associations were incorporated. Of the New London County Medical Society, Dr. John Barker of Franklin, one of the original memorialists, was the first President.

April, ——. Dr. Turner has recently extracted the bone of an alewife from the throat of Mr. Ebenezer Lord, where it had been lodged for 25 years, and at various times had given him exquisite pain. It was about the size of a brown thread needle and was barbed from end to end.

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\* Capt. Billings was scarcely 40 years of age. His wife (Mary Richards) survived him 30 years. One of their daughters married Captain Bela Peck and was the mother of Mrs. Harriet Peck Williams.

† App. to Norwich Jubilee, article Physicians, by A. Woodward, M. D.

May 2, 1774. A great military parade took place at Woodstock, accompanied by a mock fight, under the direction of Capt. Samuel M'Clellan. A party dressed as Indians, seized upon some children who were looking on, and ran off with them, but were pursued by the troop and the children rescued.

Oct. 20, 1774. Last Thursday (Oct. 14) between the hours of 7 and 8 o'clock P. M. a smart shock of an earthquake was felt here, and we are since informed it was felt also at Newport in Rhode Island; but have not heard of any damage done by it.\*

July 10, 1775. This day Mr. Safford of Preston sets off for Crown Point and Ticonderoga, to open a communication between those fortresses and this town.

The above article leads to the supposition that a portion of the recruits then in garrison at these posts belonged in this vicinity. Post-riders at that era were important agents, performing the work of the mail, the post-office, and the telegraph.†

Every shop seems to have been a variety store, containing a miscellaneous assemblage of goods. The advertisements often represented a ludicrous combination of pursuits.

Example :

Ebenezer Freeman, from Boston.

Blue-Dyer,

Informs the Public that he carries on the business  
of dyeing of Cotton, Tow and Linen a most  
beautiful blue (in indigo) with the greatest  
despatch.

Also takes in genteel Boarders.

Has a Handsome Chaise to let.

Ladies' Gauze Caps, Flys, Handkerchiefs, Aprons,  
&c. ready made in the newest taste at his house  
leading to the Landing, mostly opposite to Capt.  
Hubbard's ‡

A noted feature of that period was the great number of taverns, and these were connected with a constant stream of dinners, suppers and club meetings that were necessary to support them. On the Plain were two of special note, the Lathrop Inn, and one kept for many years by Joseph Peck. John Wheatley was also a landlord in this neighborhood for a

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\* Another slight shock of an earthquake, experienced in this part of Connecticut, May 6, 1788, is recorded in the Packet near that date.

† A curious interest is excited when we observe how large a proportion of advertisements in the old newspapers of our country relate to *strays*. *Taken up* at such a time; *came into the inclosure of the subscriber*; *strayed away*, &c., &c. Innumerable are the spotted heifers, red steers, white-faced yearlings, brindle cows, sorrel mares, roan horses, and other animals, that are advertised as lost or found,—suggestive at least of loose fencing and a bountiful supply of live-stock.

‡ Capt. Wm. Hubbard occupied the house late the residence of Joseph H. Strong.



short period, but he entered the army in 1775, and fell in the first action in which he took part.

Upon Bean Hill, Major Durkee entertained country travelers and town politicians; the Leffingwell tavern near the east end of the town plot was a noted place of resort; Lathrop at the Falls and Morgan on the Great Plain were licensed to receive guests and furnish refreshments; and at the Landing, public houses were kept by Ebenezer Fitch and Jeremiah Harris, while on all the neighboring roads, wherever ways met, a bridge occurred, or a few houses were clustered together, the traveler was confronted by the alluring tavern sign.

The same year that the Norwich Packet was commenced, [1773,] another printing-press was set up on the Plain by Green & Spooner. It is probable that they were on the ground before the Robertsons, but they published no paper. Judah Paddock Spooner, son of Thomas Spooner of New London, and brother-in-law of Timothy Green, who printed the New London Gazette, was the acting partner of the concern. This office, like that of the Robertsons, issued pamphlets and books of considerable size. The paper used by both firms was manufactured at Leffingwell's mill on the Yantic.

In some instances the two presses were rivals, reprinting the same works, and each endeavoring to forestall the other. Green & Spooner preceded the Robertsons in bringing out an edition of Watts' Psalms, [1773,] and of the Manual Exercise as ordered by his Majesty in 1764. They were competitors also in issuing school-books and almanacs.

The celebrated Dialogue concerning the Slavery of the Africans, which advocated the doctrine of immediate emancipation,—written by Dr. Hopkins and addressed to the Continental Congress,—came from the press of Green & Spooner in 1776. They also reprinted and assisted in sowing the country with Paine's Common Sense. This establishment continued its operations about five years.

In May, 1774, "Nathaniel Patten, Book-binder and Stationer from Boston," opened a shop "near the east end of the Plain," not far from Robertsen's printing-office. He proposed "to bind, gild and letter books in as splendid a manner as can be done in London;" and at the same time offered for sale the largest assortment of books that had probably ever been displayed in this part of Connecticut. His stock included works of Doddridge, Watts, Owen, Harvey, Rowe, Thomson, Smollett; Blair's Grave, Pilgrim's Progress, Vicar of Wakefield, Arabian Nights, Milton's Looking-glass for Laity and Clergy, New England's Memorial, King Philip's Bloody War, Lord Somers' Judgment of Kingdoms and Nations, Hancock's Oration on the bloody 5th of March, 1770, Rev. Mr. Sampson Occum's much-approved Collection of Hymns and Spiritual Songs, and many other standard and popular works, besides school-books



and works for children. Of stationery he had a great variety, and to this he added articles in the fancy line, which resemble the items of more modern days.

“ A famous tincture for taking out stains. .

Surprising excellent tooth-drops.

Venitian tooth-powder.

Imperial lip-salve.

A most curious eye-water.

A most excellent worm-powder,” &c.

It would probably have been difficult at that day to find in any other place on the continent, out of the range of the great cities, a literary counter presenting greater attractions to the old and young of both sexes, than was furnished by the book-shop of Mr. Patten on Norwich Green.

It is a striking evidence of an intelligent community, as well as of its prosperity and enterprise, that two printing-offices, with each its assortment of books for sale connected with it, and a third large book-binding and book-selling concern, should have been located so near together. During the same year likewise, [1774,] Samuel Loudon from New York opened a shop with a large assortment of books at the Landing, which made four book establishments for the town. This profuse display of literature was not, however, of long continuance. The fiery blast of war, which swept over the land, soon prostrated every species of trade not essential to the preservation of life or defence of liberty.

Mr. Patten had left Boston on account of the troubles with the mother country in which that town was so deeply involved, and probably returned to it as soon as the British troops were withdrawn. Loudon also in the course of two or three years sold out his stock and removed elsewhere.

The Robertsons settled in Norwich, apparently with the design of making it a permanent place of abode. They seemed to have found a home. Their business was on a scale above the ordinary range of the common printing-press of a country town. In addition to their newspaper, they printed a variety of local pamphlets, political tracts, occasional sermons, surprising narratives, manuals of military exercise, school-books and hymn-books. They also issued proposals for reprinting works of history and poetry for more enduring circulation. But the brothers were considered unsound on the vital question of American liberty. They were stigmatized as *tories in mask* and *Scotch interlopers*.

No cause for this obloquy appears in the columns of the Packet, the editors of which apparently aimed to maintain an honorable impartiality. Communications of the boldest patriotic bearing were freely admitted. The early numbers [1773] contained a series of vigorous essays, entitled “The Alarm,” and signed *Hampden*. They were written by a distinguished patriot of New York, and were directed against East India



monopolies, the importation and use of Tea, and the Declaratory and Revenue Acts of Parliament. Many other spirited addresses appeared from time to time in this paper, calculated to cherish and inflame the growing desire for political freedom.

Mr. Aaron Cleveland, a man of talent and a ready writer, contributed many pieces that had the ringing sound of genuine patriotism. One communication, which may serve as an illustrative example, was an elaborate article in the form of a sermon, upon the text, "Touch not mine anointed." [Ps. 105 : 15.] The writer's argument was designed to prove that "not kings, but *the people are the anointed of God, and kings are forbidden to touch them*, thus reversing the interpretation that had been given to the passage by others. It was further maintained that a free people are touched when their laws and civil rights are infringed or violated. The application is apparent.

As the Revolution advanced, and the great question of independence began to be discussed, the Robertsons avowed their dissent, and ceased to issue the Packet. The prejudice against them was too strong to be resisted. They withdrew from the concern, leaving the press in the hands of their partner, Trumbull, and removed to New York, where they openly espoused the royal cause.

Mrs. Amy Robertson, the wife of James, the younger of the two brothers, died in Norwich, June 15, 1776, shortly before they bade adieu to the place. A commemorative stone in the First Society burial-ground points out her grave.

The Robertsons were quite remarkable men. The sons of a printer in Scotland, emigrating to this country with nothing to open the way before them but their own industry and mechanical skill, they established themselves (between the years 1768 and 1784) successively at New York, Albany, Norwich, Philadelphia, and Shelburne, N. S., publishing a newspaper at each place, of which they were the printers and editors.

Their first press was at New York, 1768, where for two years they published the New York Chronicle. In 1770 they opened a printing-house in Albany, and came from thence to Norwich. After the British army took possession of New York, they published in that city The Royal American Gazette. At a subsequent period of the war, James Robertson issued at Philadelphia, The Royal Gazette. The following notice of Alexander's death is from the Norwich Packet of Dec. 30, 1784:

"Died at Port Roseway, [Shelburne, N. S.] in November, Mr. Alexander Robertson, printer, in the 42d year of his age : a gentleman of probity, benevolence and philanthropy ; much esteemed and now greatly lamented by a very numerous and respectable acquaintance."\*

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\* James Robertson, after the death of his brother, returned to Scotland.



The press of Green & Spooner continued in operation till 1778, when Mr. Spooner accepted an invitation from the government that had been recently organized in Vermont, to remove to that State and execute the public printing.\*

After the Robertsons left Norwich, the Packet was published by Trumbull alone, who appears as proprietor, printer and editor from that time to his decease in 1802. The paper was well conducted and a general favorite with the community.

The original title, Norwich Packet, was retained during Trumbull's life, but the heading in other particulars was often changed, sometimes appearing in German text, and sometimes in Roman capitals; now with a cut and a motto, and again in homely simplicity. After Trumbull assumed the whole proprietorship, it was entitled,—“NORWICH PACKET AND COUNTRY JOURNAL,” with the ship under sail, and the motto, “A free press maintains the majesty of the people.”

The size of the paper varied also, reflecting therein the instability of the times, and illustrating the difficulties and deficiencies of the paper manufactory. The original sheet, 15 inches by 9½, of a pleasing buff tinge, was often superseded by the dingy, dark-blue, limpsy sheet, 13 by 8, that could scarcely bear its own weight without breaking. All the newspapers of that day were subject to similar fluctuations.

Mr. Trumbull was a native of Cambridge or Charlestown, Mass., and when he entered into partnership with the Robertsons, had but just attained his majority. He was remarkable for his genial humor, and always had a merry turn or witty remark at hand.

During the Revolutionary war he published a large edition of Hubbard's Indian Wars, [1778,] various sermons delivered on special occasions, almanacs, orations and political papers, the French treaty, narrative of the Captivity of Col. Ethan Allen, and various other pamphlets, besides school-books and hymn-books in frequent editions.

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\* He established himself first at Hanover, on the east side of Connecticut river, that town being then claimed by Vermont, and for a short time published a newspaper there. But when the Vermont claims on the east side of the river were relinquished to New Hampshire, Mr. Spooner removed his press to Westminster, Vt., and in February, 1781, commenced “The Vermont Gazette, or Green Mountain Post-Boy.”



## CHAPTER XXVIII.

### THE STAMP ACT AND THE CALL FOR LIBERTY. MANUFACTURES.

BENJAMIN HUNTINGTON was chosen Town Clerk March 5, 1764. The first recorded town action that alludes to the subjects pending between Great Britain and the Colonies, is the following:

“Whereas a question arose in the mind of the Clerk of this town soon after he was chosen, whether or no he might with safety proceed in his office on the report of an act of Parliament imposing Stamp papers, &c.—Wherefore it is unanimously agreed to a man in full town meeting and it is hereby desired that the clerk proceed in all matters relating to his office as usual,—And that the town will save him harmless from all damages that he may sustain thereby.”

Soon after this, the citizens organized a watch and guard to prevent any stamps from being admitted into the place. They burned the stamp-master, Ingersoll, in effigy, and a large company went to New London to take part in the grand demonstration there made against some stamped ship-papers that had been admitted into the custom-house from the West Indies. No bolder spirit was manifested in Boston than in Norwich.

The Stamp Act had been passed by Parliament in March, but was not to go into operation until the 1st of November. Thomas Fitch, the Governor of Connecticut, after mature deliberation, decided to support it, and assembled his Council, to take in their presence the oath to that effect. Seven out of the eleven members present, after vainly remonstrating against his decision, indignantly withdrew, refusing to witness the offensive ceremony. Two of these were Norwich men,—Hezekiah and Jabez Huntington,—one a lawyer, the other a prosperous merchant.

Major John Durkee of Bean Hill was an active and daring leader in these stamp-act commotions. In September, 1765, he took command of a body of liberty men, that were gathered from Norwich and the neighboring towns and banded together for the express purpose of preventing the stamps from being distributed in Connecticut. Taking with them eight days' provisions, they set off towards Hartford, and being well mounted, overtook and arrested Mr. Ingersoll at Wethersfield, on his way to the Assembly, and with threats of violent usage in case of refusal, com-

manded him to resign his office of stamp-master. "The cause is not worth dying for," said Ingersoll, and signed his resignation.

This oppressive act could not be enforced. After hanging portentously over the country for a couple of years, it was repealed by Parliament in March, 1766. The first anniversary of the repeal was celebrated in Norwich with peculiar festivity. In a communication to the *Hartford Courant*,\* the proceedings are recorded in these loyal terms:

"Norwich, March 19, 1767.

Yesterday, P. M. a number of gentlemen of this town assembled under Liberty Tree to celebrate the day that his Majesty went in his royal robes to the House of Peers and seated on the throne gave his assent to the Repeal of the Stamp Act, for which may he be forever blessed in family and person with all the blessings of heaven."

Liberty Tree was a lofty pole erected in the center of the Green, decked with standards and appropriate devices, and crowned with a cap. A tent or booth was erected under it, called the Pavilion. Here, almost daily, people assembled to hear the news, make speeches, and encourage each other in the determination to resist all oppression.

Early in December of that year, the town received the famous Boston Circular from the selectmen, recommending the disuse of certain enumerated articles of British production. A town meeting was immediately convened to consider the subject, and "the said meeting being full and well-pleased with the important measures offered to their consideration," appointed a committee of the most prominent inhabitants to advise and report at their next meeting. This report was framed "in conformity with the noble example set by Boston," and consisted chiefly of an agreement not to import, purchase or make use of certain articles produced or manufactured out of North America; such as tea, wines and spirituous liquors, superfluities of every kind, and in general all foreign manufactures, except linens and broadcloths of a very low price, and felt hats.

They recommended also the raising of sheep's wool, flax and hemp, and the establishing of domestic manufactures; and that the citizens should especially promote those new manufactures that had been set up among them, of paper, stone and earthen-ware. The report closes in this manner:

"And it is strongly recommended to the worthy ladies of this town that for the future they would omit tea-drinking in the afternoon; and to commission officers, to be moderate and frugal in their acknowledgments to their companies for making choice of them as their officers, which at this distressing time will be more honorable than the usual lavish and extravagant entertainments heretofore given."—Voted unanimously Dec. 14, 1767, and ordered to be printed in the *New London Gazette*.



The names of the committee bringing in this report will show who were the leading patriots of the town at that time.

Hon. Hezekiah Huntington,  
Hon. Jabez Huntington,  
Simeon Tracy, Esq.,  
Capt. Richard Hide,  
Capt. Hugh Ledlie,  
Major John Durkie,  
Mr. Isaac Tracy,

Mr. Gershom Breed,  
Mr. Jeremiah Kinsman,  
Elisha Fitch, Esq.,  
Col. Wm. Whiting,  
Eben'r Hartshorn, Esq.,  
Capt. Jabez Perkins,  
Dr. Daniel Lathrop.

The idea of *Independence* had not then become current in the country. A redress of grievances was the extent of the patriot's aim. The above report closes with expressing a determination to remain "loyal subjects of our Sovereign Lord the King; holding firm and inviolable our attachment to and dependence on our mother country."

The national song, *Rule Britannia*, was often sung with a variation of the chorus:

Rule Britannia; rule the waves,  
But never make your children slaves.

Norwich was one of the first towns in the colony to make experiments in manufactures. The manufacture of paper was begun by Christopher Leffingwell in 1766, the Connecticut Gazette being issued on paper from his factory in December of that year. His stocking-looms were set in operation about the same time.

As the troubles with the mother country took a more serious aspect, iron-works became specially important. The foundry of Elijah Backus at Yantic was serviceable in the casting of cannon and mortars, and there was full employment everywhere for hammer, bellows and furnace.

The encouragement of home manufactures and the rejection of all imported luxuries were regarded as tests of patriotism. Common discourse grew eloquent in praise of plain apparel and Labrador Tea. The music of the spinning-wheel was pronounced superior to that of guitar and harpsichord.

Homespun parties were given, where nothing of foreign importation appeared in the dresses or upon the table. Even wedding festivities were conducted upon patriotic principles. It is related that at the marriage of Miss Dora Flint at Windham, in December, 1767, the numerous guests were all arrayed in garments of domestic manufacture. The ladies appeared without silks, ribbons, gauze, or lace. The refreshments, though in great plenty and variety, were all of domestic produce, and the popular beverage was Hyperion, or Labrador Tea.\*

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\* *Ceanothus Americanus*. It grows all over New England, and is called also Red-root and New Jersey Tea. Not the green plant, but the leaves properly dried and cured make a tea which is said to be both wholesome and palatable. The aborigines used it.

In the summer of 1768, a stage-coach was established between Norwich and Providence; leaving Lathrop's tavern every Wednesday morning, and forming a weekly line. This was the first public conveyance upon this route.

June 7, 1768, an entertainment was given at Peck's tavern, adjoining Liberty Tree, to celebrate the election of Wilkes to Parliament. The principal citizens, both of town and landing, assembled on this festive occasion. All the furniture of the table, such as plates, bowls, tureens, tumblers and napkins, were marked "No. 45." This was the famous number of the "North Briton," edited by Wilkes, which rendered him so obnoxious to the ministry. The Tree of Liberty was decked with new emblems, among which, and conspicuously surmounting the whole, was a flag emblazoned with "No. 45, WILKES & LIBERTY."

In September of that year, another festival was held at the same place, in mockery of the pompous proceedings of the Commissioners of Customs appointed for the colonies by the British Ministry. These Commissioners had published a list of holidays to be observed by all persons in their employ, and among them was "*September 8th*," the anniversary of the date of their commission. The citizens of Norwich were resolved to make it a holiday also. At the conclusion of the banquet, toasts were drank, and at the end of every one was added:

"AND THE 8TH OF SEPTEMBER."

Thus:—

"The King and the 8th of September."

"Wilkes and Liberty and the 8th of September."

"The famous 92 and the 8th of September."

Songs were also sung with this chorus; nor did the assembly disperse without indignant speeches made against "British mis-government," and the disgrace of wearing a foreign yoke.

October 4th, a town meeting was called to consider "the critical and alarming conjuncture of affairs." This was a full assembly, and all hearts were warm and unanimous. There was no need of discussion or debate. The record of the meeting in the town book is inscribed upon the margin with the word

"LIBERTY! LIBERTY! LIBERTY!"

three times repeated. This word alone shows the spirit that pervaded the assembly. They passed a vote of cordial approbation of the measures adopted by the Bostonians, on the 12th of September, saying:

"We consider the noble cause they are engaged in as the common cause of our country, and will unite both heart and hand in support thereof, against all enemies whatsoever."



It was customary at this period for the town to give a paper of instructive hints to their deputies respecting the points it would be desirable for them to advocate in the assembly. In these instructions we find them repeatedly urging:

That manufactures be encouraged.

That debates be open.

That a close union of the colonies be promoted.

That measures be taken to lessen the number of lawsuits, or some better provision be made for their speedy issue.

In May, 1769, they recommend "that some effectual measures may be concerted to lessen the amazing flood of private business at the Assembly."

Jan. 29, 1770. The margin of the public record is again emblazoned with LIBERTY! LIBERTY! The following is an extract from the resolutions then passed:

"We give this public testimony of our hearty and unanimous approbation of the agreement the merchants have entered into, to stop the importation of British goods; we will frown upon all who endeavour to frustrate these good designs, and avoid all correspondence and dealings with those merchants who shall dare to violate these obligations."

They proceeded to choose two diligent and discreet persons from each society, in addition to the Merchant's Committee, to make critical inspection into the conduct of all buyers and sellers of goods, who were to publish the names of those that should counteract the intent and meaning of the non-importation agreement, to the intent that such persons might be exposed to the odium and resentment of the people. They also recommend to the wealthy persons in town to enter into subscriptions for setting up and carrying on the making of nails, stocking-weaving, and other useful branches of manufacture, and every one in his respective sphere of action to encourage and promote industry and frugality.

In August, repeated meetings were convened for the same purpose; that is, to devise methods to support the non-importation agreement, which was the leading measure of the day. They declare their fixed opinion of the wisdom and importance of this measure,—that they will "spare no pains to give it a fixed and solid form, by following every breach thereof with the full weight of their indignation, and withholding all commerce from any who dare to violate it;" and that they are "both grieved and incensed at the alarming conduct of New York in violating the same."

Elijah Backus, Esq., and Capt. Jedidiah Huntington, were selected to represent the mercantile and landed interest, at a meeting proposed to be held in New Haven, the day after the college commencement, to resolve on measures to support this agreement.

Let it not be supposed that all this spirit evaporated in votes and public speeches; there is abundant evidence that the action was suited to the word, and not a threat returned void. The committees of inspection were exceedingly vigilant; the lady who continued to indulge in her cup of tea, or the gentleman in his glass of brandy, were obliged to do it by stealth. Any person who was found to have violated the agreement, had his name posted in handbills through the town, and published in the New London Gazette, a proceeding usually followed by insults, at least from the boys and populace. As the citizens were so strenuous upon this subject, it may be gratifying to curiosity to see a list of the articles specifically enumerated in the pledge not to "import, purchase, or use, if produced or manufactured out of North America."

Loaf Sugar,	Wrought plate,
Snuff,	Gloves,
Mustard,	Shoes,
Starch,	Women's hats,
Malt liquors,	Men's hats, except felts,
Linseed oil,	Muffs, tippets, and ermine,
Cheese,	Lawns and gauze,
Tea,	Sewing silk,
Wine,	Women's and children's stays,
Spirituous liquors,	Broadcloths above 9s. 6d. per yard.
Cordage and anchors,	Cambries above 5s.
Sole-leather,	Linens above 2s. 6d.
Deck nails,	Silks of all kinds except taffety,
Clocks,	Silk handkerchiefs,
Jewelers' ware,	Silk and cotton velvets,
Gold and silver buttons,	All sorts of head-dress for women, as caps,
Gold and silver lace,	ribbons, flowers, feathers, and turbans.*
Thread lace,	

As an example of the proceedings of the committee, the case of Mr. Ebenezer Punderson may be cited. This person was a man of good manners and education, who kept a school upon the plain; but whose name was posted through the town, with the charge of having repeatedly drank tea, and being questioned about it, declared that he would continue to do so. He said, moreover, that Congress was an unlawful combination, and their petition to his Majesty haughty, violent, and impertinent, and uttered other words, indicating disregard of the Continental association. The committee thereupon ordered, "that no trade, commerce, dealings, or intercourse whatever be carried on with him, but that he ought to

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\* At Woodstock, the non-importation agreement, which was voted by the citizens, (Col. Israel Putnam in the chair,) rejected all imported articles except the following, which we may take as a list of what were considered positive necessities, that one could not decently live without: Bibles, pins, needles, gunpowder, lead, flints, German steel, apothecary's drugs, spices, and window-glass.



be held as unworthy the rights of freeman, and inimical to the liberties of his country." This had the desired effect. A public recantation was made by Mr. Punderson, who averred that he was *sorry* for what he had done, and would drink no more tea until the use should be fully approved in North America; moreover, that he would no more vilify Congress, nor do any thing against the liberties and privileges of America.

At a later period, however, [August, 1777,] the estate of Mr. Punderson in Norwich was confiscated, the Commissioners stating that he had left the town and "joined the enemies of America." Certain property owned in town by William Bayard and Charles Ward Apthorp of New York, was confiscated at the same time. The height of land east of the Shetucket, still known as Tory Hill, was a part of this confiscated estate. We are not aware that any other property in Norwich was sequestered on account of toryism.

Great exertions were made about this time to establish regular posts, and safe transportation lines through the colonies. Norwich was not behindhand in this business. In addition to the regular stage-route to Providence, individuals were engaged to ride weekly to all the larger cities in the vicinity, conveying letters, papers, memorandums, and small bundles. No effective system, however, was established in concert with other parts of the country, till March, 1774. At that time, Mr. William Goddard, a distinguished printer of Baltimore, arrived in town, being on a tour through the northern colonies to engage the friends of liberty to abolish "the illegal and oppressive parliamentary post office, and establish a provincial subscription post." Mr. Goddard held a conference with some of the citizens, who entered readily into his plans, and a regular weekly communication was forthwith established between Norwich and Boston, for which £60 per annum was subscribed. The route led through Windham, Pomfret, and Mendon. The post left Norwich on Thursday, reached Boston on Saturday, and started the next Monday for Norwich again. This was the first regular post between the two places.

New London was at this period the regular place of letter-delivery for the three counties of New London, Windham, and Middlesex. A post-office was not established at Norwich till 1782.

The manufactures of the place were daily becoming more important. A fulling-mill with a dye-house attached was established by Christopher Leffingwell in 1770, and another by Simon Huntington in 1772; chocolate mills were put in operation; pot and pearl ashes were made by the calcination of plants, and a pottery for moulding stone and earthen ware was begun at Bean Hill. Another important enterprise was the manufacture of cut shingle-nails from old iron hoops, which was commenced in 1772, and continued during the war, by Edmund Darrow. This naillery was not large, employing only from four to six hands, but was a great

convenience to the community, and merits notice from its being one of the first attempts in this country to make nails in a way less slow and tedious than the old operation of hammering them out of solid iron.

In 1773, Mr. Thomas Harland, from London, commenced the business of clock and watch-making. His advertisement stated that he made horizontal, repeating and plain watches in gold, silver, metal or covered cases; spring, musical and plain clocks; church clocks and regulators. Watch-wheels and fuzees of all sorts and dimensions, cut and finished upon the shortest notice, neat as in London, and at the same price.

Mr. Harland taught a number of apprentices, who established themselves in other places, and thus, through his means, the business became extensively spread in the surrounding country. This very ingenious artisan also superintended the construction of the first fire-engine owned in Norwich. This was in 1788.

The comb-making business was established in 1773, by Noah Hidden, near the meeting-house. Mr. Alvan Fosdick about the same period undertook the manufacture of cards at Bean Hill. In 1780, Nathaniel Niles began to make iron wire at the Falls, connecting also with his works a card-factory, and inventing, it is said, his own peculiar machinery.

Other artisans who made their appearance at this stirring period were John Page, a gunsmith from Preston, England, who found ready employment; Zurishaddai Key, a tape-weaver from Manchester, who set up a tape-factory at the Landing; and Richard Collier, a brazier from Boston, whose foundry and sale-shop was nearly opposite Trumbull's printing-office.\*

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\* Warming-pans were at that time a conspicuous article in the assortment of a brazier, and a row of them adorned the front of Collier's shop.



## CHAPTER XXIX.

### PREPARING FOR INDEPENDENCE.

THREE-PENCE sterling duty on a pound of tea! What a mighty ferment, leading to what great results, this little tax created! The Act was passed in 1767, and it included other articles to be taxed,—paper, paints, glass, &c.,—but these duties were soon repealed, leaving the three-pence on tea, as the assertion of the principle that Parliament had the right to tax the Colonies, and this assumption could not be admitted by a free people.

On the 8th of December, 1773, the pretended sachem of Narragansett, "*Ok-nooker-tunkogog*,"\* and 70 of his tribe, emptied 342 chests of tea into Boston Harbor, thousands of spectators manifesting their joyful acquiescence in the destruction of the Chinese herb, heretofore so highly prized.

A circular from the Boston Committee of Correspondence, dated May 13, 1774, calling for co-operation in resistance to the oppressive laws of the mother country, and directed to the selectmen, or principal citizens of the various towns, met every where a cordial response. In Norwich, a town meeting suggested by this communication was convened by the selectmen, June 6th,

"To take into consideration the melancholy situation of our civil, constitutional Liberties, Rights and Privileges which are threatened with destruction by the enemies of his Majesty's happy reign and government over the American Colonies."

The citizens at first assembled in the court-house, but were obliged to adjourn to the meeting-house in order to accommodate the large concourse of people who came together. The Hon. Jabez Huntington was chosen moderator, and a series of patriotic resolutions drawn up by Capt. Joseph Trumbull and Samuel Huntington, Esq., were passed, almost by acclamation.

In transmitting an account of these proceedings to the Selectmen of Boston, Capt. Trumbull observes:

"You are called by Providence to stand foremost in the contest for those liberties wherewith God and nature have made us free. Stand firm therefore in your lot, and from the apparent temper of our people we can assure you of every support in the power of this town to afford you in the glorious struggle."

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\* See newspapers of 1773.

A standing Committee of Correspondence was at this time appointed, consisting of

Capt. Jedidiah Huntington,  
Chr. Leffingwell, Esq.,  
Dr. Theophilus Rogers,

Capt. William Hubbard,  
Capt. Joseph Trumbull.

Col. Barre, in his celebrated speech in Parliament against the Stamp Act, had called the Americans Sons of Liberty, and this was adopted as the title of those associations which were organized through the colonies to resist the oppressive acts of England. In Norwich, however, we find no instance of that almost idolatrous homage to Liberty personified, which was then common in the country. Liberty was cherished as a principle, but not worshiped as a divinity. The highest personification adopted was calling their magnificent pole upon the plain, *Liberty Tree*.\* Nevertheless, here as elsewhere, patriotism was continually rushing into extremes of speech and action.

In calmly reconsidering the Revolutionary period, we are astonished at the violent ebullitions of passion which often marked its progress. Perhaps without these deep revulsions and over-actings of popular excitement, our independence would not have been so readily secured; yet the personal animosity and extravagant vituperation of the period can not be defended.

Speeches, letters, essays, newspapers, were full of obloquy and personal reproach. They were eloquent in railing, calling names, and holding up caricatures to be ridiculed and demolished. The nation was in truth moved to its lowest depths; the rude and ignorant were aroused to a sturdy and bitter fury, while lowering discontent or gloomy resolution hung upon the brows of the well-instructed and true-hearted.

No set of men were more generally buffeted with scorn and ridicule than "the sycophant addressers of Governor Hutchinson." In the vilifying, clamorous style of the day, they were called "an infamous gang of villains," "groaning court-tools," "myrmidons of despotism," &c.

July 4, 1774, Mr. Francis Green, a merchant of Boston, who was one of "the addressers of Hutchinson,"† being on a journey into Connecticut, in order, as he stated, to collect debts and transact some private business, put up at a tavern in Windham. This gentleman was a loyalist, and of course obnoxious to the Sons of Liberty, who affected to believe that he

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\* Poles were erected in many places, and dedicated "to the Immortal Goddess Liberty." Dr. Warren in his oration of March 5, 1775, addressing his fellow-citizens, uses the expression, "*your adored Goddess Liberty*."

† Francis Green, Esq., graduated at Harvard College, 1760. He was at the capture of Havana, 1762; died at Medford, April 21, 1809, aged 67. He was author of an "Essay on imparting Speech to the Deaf and Dumb," printed at London in 1783.



had some sinister designs in this journey. He had been stigmatized in the patriotic papers as "one of that insidious crew who fabricated and signed the adulatory address to strengthen the hands of that parricidal tool of despotism, Thomas Hutchinson." The patriots of Windham were no sooner aware of his presence, than they proceeded to show their displeasure. Assembling early in the morning, they surrounded the tavern, uttering shouts of insult and threats of *exalting him upon a cart*, unless he instantly left their precincts. This he did without delay, being followed with hoots and execrations. An express had been previously despatched to Norwich, with information that he was bound thither. The whole town was moved with this intelligence, and the sexton was ordered to give notice of his arrival by ringing the bell. Mr. Green's carriage, therefore, no sooner stopped at Lathrop's tavern, than the bell rang an alarm, and the citizens were in an uproar.

The plain was soon alive with the concourse, and a message was transmitted to Mr. Green, giving him his choice, to depart in fifteen minutes, or be driven out *on a cart*. He was very reluctant to go; pleaded business; that he had debts in town to collect; and stepping out upon the green, attempted to address the people: whereupon Capt. Simeon Huntington, a very stout man, collared him and called him *rascal*. By this time a horse and cart, with a high scaffolding in it for a seat, made its appearance, and demonstrations of lifting him to this conspicuous station being made, Mr. Green took the most prudent course, entered his carriage, and amid shouts and hissings drove off; a part of the populace following him with drums beating and horns blowing, till he was fairly out of their precincts. On his return to Boston, Mr. Green issued a proclamation and offered a reward for the apprehension of any of the ruffians who had forced him to leave Windham and Norwich. It read as follows:

#### ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS REWARD.

Whereas five Ruffians, calling themselves by the names of Hezekiah Bissell, Benjamin Lathrop, Timothy Laraby, Ebenezer Backus, and Nathaniel Warren, aided and assisted by a great number of others, did (in the night of the 4th inst. at Windham, in the Colony of Connecticut, and again in the morning of the 5th inst.) in a lawless and hostile manner assault the subscriber, surrounding the house in which he was, forcibly entering the same and intruding themselves into his particular room, endeavoring to intimidate him by threats, from the pursuit of his lawful and necessary business, menacing to seize him, with his papers, baggage, &c. and to carry him off, as well as intimating that his life was in danger, if he did not submit to their illegal demands, of desisting from his business, and of immediately quitting the said town, and did also presumptuously interrupt and insult him, by repeatedly insisting on his departure, and

WHEREAS, (it is supposed by their instigation,) a great number of other *Villains* and *Ruffians*, one of whom called himself by the name of Simeon Huntington, did also in the morning of the 6th instant, in the same hostile but more cowardly manner, surround, threaten, assault and lay violent hands on the subscriber at *Norwich*, in said

Colony, and by force compel him to quit his lawful business, and depart that town, thereby not only impeding him in the collecting of debts justly due to him, obstructing him in the settlement of accounts, and other important transactions ; (to his great detriment and injury) but also putting his life in danger ; And

WHEREAS repeated application was made to a magistrate of Norwich aforesaid, for that protection which every subject in his legal business is entitled to, but no protection being either afforded, offered, or promised,—This is therefore to offer a reward of

One Hundred Dollars,

to any person who shall give such information of the above mentioned, high handed, and audacious offenders, as that they may thereby be apprehended within this province, and be held to answer for their infamous conduct, the same to be paid on their conviction by

FRANCIS GREEN.

Boston, July 13, 1774.\*

The treatment received by Mr. Green was stigmatized by the tories, as a “violent outrage from a petulant mob.” The patriots called it “the cool, deliberate remonstrance of the sons of freedom.” The advertisement was a subject of merriment to the good people of Norwich, who republished it in handbills, and hawked it about town with a running commentary.

About this time subscriptions were made in various towns in Connecticut, for the poor of Boston. Norwich sent on a noble donation of 291 sheep, and afterwards a second installment of cash, wheat, corn, and a flock of 100 sheep. This liberality was greatly applauded in the public prints. Samuel Adams, in a letter to the Committee, referring to this generosity, observes: “The part which the Town of Norwich takes in this struggle for American Liberty is truly noble.”

The sympathy felt for the Bostonians was yet further displayed by the spirit manifested in September of this year, on the reception of a piece of intelligence, which proved to be false, of a rupture between them and the royal troops. On Saturday, Sept. 3d, at four P. M., an express arrived from Col. Israel Putnam, that Boston had been attacked the night before, and six of the citizens killed. This was but a rumor, yet it caused the greatest consternation ; the citizens assembled around Liberty Tree, then adjourned to the court-house, and resolved to despatch an express to Providence. Mr. David Nevins volunteered on this service, as he had on many similar occasions, and departed at eight, P. M. On Sunday morning, 464 men, well armed, and the greater part mounted on good horses, started for Boston, under the command of Major John Durkee, and rendezvoused at Capt. Burnham’s inn, seven miles from town. Here at eleven o’clock A. M., they were met by Mr. Nevins, on his return from Providence, with intelligence that the report was without foundation,—upon which they dispersed. That same morning, two hundred men, well

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\* Massachusetts Gazette.



armed and mounted, left Windham at sunrise, and had proceeded twenty or thirty miles before they learned the falsity of the rumor. The people of Colchester were attending divine service, when a messenger entered and announced the report that Boston had been attacked by the troops. The minister immediately suspended the service, and all the men able to bear arms equipped themselves and marched. It was supposed that upwards of 20,000 men from this colony alone were on the march to Boston that day.

This false alarm had for its foundation a real aggressive act. General Gage landed a body of troops and removed the military stores from Charlestown, together with two field-pieces from Cambridge, to Castle William. This excited a tumult in Boston, the news of which, distorted and intensified by rumor, was delivered verbally by a hasty messenger to Col. Putnam at Pomfret. Putnam condensed the intelligence in a despatch to Capt. Cleveland in Canterbury, who sent it on by express to Major John Durkee in Norwich; the latter forwarded it to New London, from whence it went to Lyme, Saybrook, and East Haddam,—the same despatch passing on with its various endorsements, and arousing the country to arms.

A convention of delegates from New London and Windham counties met at Norwich Sept. 8, 1774, in order to consult upon measures for the common welfare. The result of their proceedings was an earnest recommendation that the towns should supply themselves with a full stock of ammunition and military stores,—that all officers and soldiers should be well armed and equipped,—that men should be collected and drilled, and skill in the art of war should be cultivated. Of this meeting the Hon. Gurdon Saltonstall was chairman, and Col. William Williams of Lebanon, clerk.

In October, the General Court of the Colony ordered that all the militia should be called out for drill twelve half-days before the next May. No regiment of militia had at this time ever been reviewed east of Connecticut river; the trainings had all been by companies.

There was no regular uniform for the militia of the State at that period, nor for many years afterward. Rifle frocks and overalls were much worn, mostly white with colored fringes. One of the words of command in training was, "Blow off the loose corns;" and before and after the command to "Poise arms," came "Put your right hand to the firelock,"—"Put your left hand to the firelock." An odd kind of aspirate was sometimes used after a command; thus, "Shoulder! hoo!" The great object in the exercises then was to make the soldier familiar with his gun; that he might charge quick and aim sure. Now the trainings consist much more in maneuvering, wheeling, marching, &c. Instead of firelock, *arms* is used.

At a field review in May, 1774, Norwich had four companies, under the following officers :

1st Company—Jedidiah Huntington, Captain.  
Jacob Perkins, Jr., Lieutenant.  
Joseph Carew, Ensign.

2d Company—Samuel Wheat, Captain.  
Joseph Ellis, Lieutenant.  
Isaac Griswold, Ensign.

3d Company—Isaac Tracy, Jr., Captain.  
Jacob Witter, Lieutenant.  
Andrew Tracy, Ensign.

4th, or Chelsea Co.—Gershom Breed, Captain.  
Benjamin Dennis, Lieutenant.  
Thomas Trap, Ensign.

The militia at that period used the English colors ; displaying the cross of St George (+) in a field of red or blue, and sometimes the cross of St. Andrew (X) united with it (\*), in reference to the union of England and Scotland. After the troubles with the mother country commenced, objections were made to this standard, and in all probability it was not displayed after 1774. It is said that on a certain training day, the artillery company, composed of able men and patriots of the first stamp, had provided themselves with a banner bearing the arms and motto of the State, while the light infantry performed their evolutions as heretofore under the old flag. In the course of the day's exercises, being on a march through the town street, the artillery managed to confront the infantry, and planting their cannon in the way, refused them a passage unless they would surrender their standard. After some parleying, the royal ensign was lowered, rolled up, and never used again.

In the autumn of 1774, the General Court ordered that Norwich should comprise the 20th regiment of infantry, and appointed Jedidiah Huntington, Colonel ; Samuel Abbott, Lieut. Colonel ; and Zabdiel Rogers, Major. These officers all belonged to Norwich town-plot. Col. Huntington gave notice that a regimental training would be held at Norwich on the first Monday of the next May. But before that time arrived, a great part of the men were in actual service near Boston, and the review was relinquished.

When the flame of war broke forth in 1775, twenty-two regiments had been organized in Connecticut. In 1776 they were remodeled and twenty-five regiments formed, and of these all but two were in actual service for longer or shorter terms during the summer.

In October, 1776, Ebenezer Huntington and Jedidiah Hyde of Norwich were commissioned as captains, David Nevins, Simeon Huntington and Jacob DeWitt lieutenants, in the regular army.



Such was the unanimity of the citizens, that through the whole Revolutionary struggle their proceedings were principally town-wise. They were not obliged to have such continual recourse to the committees of correspondence and safety, nor to invest them with such arbitrary powers as was done in most parts of the country. The public acts were all municipal, the dissenting voices few and weak, and very little change took place in laws or officers. The town was an independent community, actuated by a single impulse, swayed only by a Governor whom they loved, and a Congress which they revered.

March 28, 1775. In full town meeting the following resolution was passed:

“Whereas numbers of persons are removing from the town of Boston to this place and others may remove:—Voted, that this town request the select-men and committee of inspection to take effectual care that none of the addressers to Gov. Hutchinson or any others who have evidenced themselves to be inimical to the common cause of America, be admitted or suffered to reside in this town, unless they shall produce a proper certificate from the Provincial Congress that they have altered their conduct in such a manner as to give full satisfaction.”

Among the persons alluded to in the above preamble, who at this time removed their families to Norwich, where they remained till after the evacuation of Boston by the British, and some of them during the greater part of the war, the names of Hubbard, Greene, Phillips, Quincy, How and Dorr have been preserved.

Mr. How was the pastor of the South Church in Boston, and had formerly preached in Norwich.

Deacon Phillips occupied the Arnold house. He was one of the *solid men* of Boston, and his family came on in a coach with out-riders. The family of Josiah Quincy, the Boston Patriot, came with them; Mr. Quincy himself being then absent on a mission to England.\*

The Hubbards and Greenes had connections in Norwich, and it was natural that they should remove to these well-known and retired scenes. Capt. William Hubbard took the house that had been long known as that of Col. Hezekiah Huntington, then recently deceased, and several of his Boston relatives, both Greenes and Hubbards, resided with him till *the siege* was raised.†

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\* The late Josiah Quincy, President of Harvard College, in conversation with a gentleman from Norwich, said that he distinctly remembered some of the circumstances connected with this removal, though he was but three years old at the time.

† It is related that when Mrs. Greene and her young daughter returned to Boston, Zacchary, a faithful Indian runner, made one of the retinue, carrying the child upon his shoulders in a basket which depended from a broad strap around the head in true aboriginal style. This was doubtless the easiest mode in which the child could be conveyed to such a distance.

Major Dorr of Boston, while tarrying at Norwich with his family, was nominated by Washington as one of three commissioners who were appointed to view the harbor of New London, and select the most eligible place for a fortification.

From other places also, the population of Norwich was augmented in these troubled times. The Malbones came from Newport, the Moore family from New York; Capt. Joseph Coit and Russell Hubbard from New London; and doubtless many from other places, that have not been traced.

The attention of the whole country was at this time turned towards Boston. The Norwich Packet was rife with such remarks as these :

“Boston is now reduced to an alarming crisis, big with important events. Like a new piece of ordnance, deeply charged for the trial of its strength; we listen with attention to hear its convulsed explosion, suspending ourselves in mysterious doubt, whether it will burst with dreadful havock, or recoil upon the engineers to their great confusion.”

“The blocking up of Boston is like turning the tide of a murmuring river upon the whole land, and thereby spreading a dangerous inundation through the continent, for resentment already flows high at New York, Philadelphia, and the southern towns, and if it join with the flux at Boston, it may occasion a sea of troubles.”

The explosion waited for in such dread suspense, at length broke upon the land. The battle of Lexington commenced early on Wednesday morning, April 19th. Gov. Trumbull was in Norwich when the news first arrived, which was in the afternoon of the next day.\* The facts were greatly exaggerated and the public sympathy highly excited. Mr. Nevins, with his usual promptness, again mounted and proceeded to Providence after correct information, returning on Saturday evening. Handbills were immediately struck off and dispersed through the town before daybreak the next morning.

It is interesting to trace the course of intelligence flying through the country at that period, and in this case we have the means of noting the points accurately.†

J. Palmer, one of the Committee of Safety at Watertown, at 10 o'clock on that memorable day, April 19th, sends forward Israel Bissell on a swift horse, with a despatch to Col. Foster at Brookfield, stating that “the British have landed two brigades, have already killed 6 men, and wounded 4 others, and are on their march into the country.” Bissell is charged to alarm the people as far as the Connecticut line. At Worcester, Nathan Balding, town clerk, takes a copy of the despatch and forwards it to Daniel Tyler, Jr., of Brooklyn, Ct., who sends it by express to Norwich, where it arrives in the afternoon of the 20th.

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\* Stuart's Life of Trumbull, p. 173.

† Newspaper extras and private documents.



Early the next morning another express with later news arrives. This is from Ebenezer Williams at Pomfret, to Col. Obadiah Johnson at Canterbury, who forwards it to Jedidiah Huntington. It contains the startling news that 50 of our people are killed and 150 of the regulars,—that is, “as near as they could determine when the express came away.”

On the 22d, Mr. Nevins returned with more correct accounts by way of Providence.

On the 23d, (Sunday,) at 9 o'clock in the evening, an express arrived from Woodstock, with despatches for the Committee of Correspondence, and a certified copy of a letter from General Putnam, dated at Cambridge, April 22d, evidently written under deep excitement, calling for immediate supplies of troops and provisions. The shades grow darker with each account, and Putnam represents the invading enemy as perfectly barbarian, burning houses, “killing children, and putting the muzzle of the gun into the mouths of sick people not able to move, and blowing their heads to pieces.”\*

Volunteers were now almost daily departing for the army at Cambridge, in squads of two, three, and four, and regularly organized companies were not far behind. In April, 1775, the Legislature ordered six regiments to be enlisted and equipped without delay. The term of enlistment was seven months. These regiments were raised by volunteers from the regular militia almost with a rush. In May, a company of 100 from Norwich, enlisted and accoutered under the superintendence of the veteran Durkee, left for the scene of action in charge of Lieut. Joshua Huntington. These were annexed to Col. Putnam's regiment.

This company departed May 23d, and that same night a company from Saybrook arrived and encamped on the plain, marching early on the 24th. On the 25th, Capt. Coit's company from New London passed through the town, hastening forward, impatient to face the foe.

A company went from Preston nearly at the same time, under officers that all rose during the war to the rank of majors and colonels: Edward Mott, captain; Benjamin Throop and Jeremiah Halsey, lieutenants; Nathan Peters, ensign.

Early in June, a second company, raised and drilled in the town-plot at Norwich, marched for Boston, and was annexed to the 6th regiment, commanded by Col. Parsons. Samuel Gale, captain; Josiah Baldwin and Elisha Lee, lieutenants; David Nevins, ensign.

Two additional regiments were raised in the eastern part of Connecticut in July, under Colonels Jonathan Latimer of New London and Jedidiah Huntington of Norwich. Rev. John Ellis of the West Farms was chaplain of Huntington's regiment, and Philip Turner surgeon. Two

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\* These atrocities were then currently reported, but the British officers indignantly denied that any such were perpetrated.

companies went from Norwich, commanded by Asa Kingsbury and Joseph Jewett.

Phineas Lyman Tracy, son of Dr. Elisha Tracy, was ensign in Kingsbury's company, and a young man of great ability and promise. He died at Roxbury during the siege of Boston, before he had attained the age of twenty-one years.

Capt. Jewett was son-in-law to Dr. Theophilus Rogers. He was taken prisoner at Flatbush, Aug. 31, 1776, and barbarously slain with his own sword after he had surrendered.

A part of these recruits fought at Bunker's Hill. Major Durkee's company, in the retreat from thence, according to the commissary's report, lost twenty guns and forty blankets.

These regiments passed the next winter on Prospect and Cobb's Hill, pressing the siege of Boston. They were transferred to New York in March; were engaged in the battles at Brooklyn and Haerlem Heights; endured all the hardships of the retreat through the Jerseys, and fought at Germantown, before their term of service expired. Many of these first volunteers served during the whole war, gradually acquiring an honorable rank and reputation in the army.

The great number of volunteers enlisting into the Continental service, left the militia ranks scanty and inefficient. In October, 1776, the 20th regiment was ordered to take position at Rye, for the defence of the State. A return of the regimental roll,\* the first week after their arrival at Rye, (Oct. 11th,) shows eleven companies present, but no one company with more than 22 privates. Major Zabdiel Rogers was in command of the regiment, and the captains were Jacob and Joseph Perkins, Wheat, Johnson, Stephens, Wight, Waterman, Lathrop, Brewster, Leffingwell, and McCall. Total on duty, 176.

The following order from Washington to Colonel Rogers, who was then with his regiment at Rye, has been preserved:†

Oct. 21, 1776.

SIR. You are hereby requested to make the best stand you can with the Troops under your command against the Enemy, who I am informed are advanced this morning on Mamaronek, and I will as soon as possible order a party to attack them in flank of which you shall be fully informed in proper time.—Be cautious of mentioning the design. I am your most obedient servant,

G. WASHINGTON.

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\* Preserved in MS.

† The original is in the possession of Miss Olivia Tyler, a great-grand-daughter of Col. Rogers. Only the signature is in the hand of Washington.



## CHAPTER XXX.

### BIRDS-EYE VIEW OF A SCENE IN NORWICH. 1775.

SUPPOSE it to be that Sunday in June which succeeded the battle of Bunker Hill. It is 10 o'clock, and the second bell has just commenced ringing. The inhabitants are gathering slowly and solemnly to the house of worship. From Bean Hill come a throng of Backuses, Hydes, Rogerses, Wheats, Tracys, Watermans, Griswolds. Here and there is a one-horse chaise, almost large enough for a bed-room, square-bottomed, and studded with brass nails, looking something like a chest of drawers or an antique book-case on wheels. Doctor Theophilus Rogers and his wife Penelope occupy one of these vehicles. Major Zabdiel Rogers holds in his impatient charger to keep pace with them. The brothers Thomas, with their families, join the downward train.

Those stout-looking men on horseback, with women and children upon pillions behind, are reputable farmers from Waweeus and Plain Hills. That young man with such erect form and attractive countenance, is Dr. Elihu Marvin, unconscious that he alone of all this population is to be the victim of a future pestilence, that will nearly desolate a neighboring city. That one with the staid demeanor and grave aspect, whose hair is already silvered with age, is Deacon Griswold, destined to live nearly to the confines of another century.

Farther down, the stream is increased by the families of the philanthropic Dr. Elisha Tracy and Dr. Philip Turner, the surgeon, and Elisha Hyde, an enthusiastic young attorney, and Mr. Billy Waterman and Mr. Jo. Waterman. Many of the foot-people have turned off by the willow tree, and ascending the rocks, proceed by a rude pathway, once the beaten road that led to the ancient meeting-house upon the hill; others pursue their way through the town street, winding under the eaves of precipitous rocks till they reach the church.

But see, from opposite quarters are advancing the Lathrops, Huntingtons, Leffingwells, Tracys, Adgates, Blisses, Reynoldses, Baldwins, Pecks, Trumbulls, &c. Dudley Woodbridge, clerk of the committee of inspection, is a conspicuous personage. Samuel Tracy is accompanied by his wife Sybil, and his young family. Deacon Simon Huntington is here in

his three-cornered hat and white wig, walking gravely with a staff. You may see other men in white wigs, some five or six in all. Dr. Daniel Lathrop wears one: he rides to meeting in a chaise with a negro driver in front,—his dignified companion, the daughter of Gov. Talcott, sitting by his side.

There comes the Hon. Samuel Huntington, Judge of the Superior Court and recently elected member of the Continental Congress, with his wife and their adopted children. There too is the patriotic Gen. Jabez Huntington, and those of his sons whom the Lexington war-cry has not yet called to the field, and the family of the late Hon. Hezekiah Huntington, and Benjamin Huntington, the worthy patriot and clerk, and other Huntingtons and Lathrops and Tracys innumerable.

The names of Fanning, Townsend and Carpenter have their representatives here. Seth Miner, Jabez Perkins, Silas Goodell, Dr. Jonathan Marsh, Jesse Brown, will be in their customary seats. Aaron Cleveland, a deep thinker; William Hubbard, with large heart and open hand; William Pitt Turner, the wit and rhymester; the printers, Robertson, Trumbull, Spooner; the Morgans, Bushnells, and Starrs, from the Great Plain,—all assemble at the sound of the church-going bell.

Around the Plain, every threshold seems to be simultaneously crossed. The two taverns kept by Azariah Lathrop and Joseph Peck pour forth a goodly number. Mr. Ben. Butler and his family and Mr. Joseph Carew are coming up on one side, and Mr. Elly Lord and his two daughters are just passing the court-house. And see, the parsonage door opens, and the venerable pastor comes forth, and slowly walks to the church and up the broad aisle, tottering as he ascends the pulpit stairs. How reverend are the curls of that white wig! The very wig which he wore some twenty years previous, when the old Rogerene so abusively followed him into meeting, exclaiming: "Benjamin! Benjamin! dost thou think that they wear white wigs in heaven!" And again: "Benjamin! thou art a sinner! thou wearest a white wig!"

Below the pulpit, in the broad aisle, are chairs and cushioned benches, where a few old people sit. The gallery is filled with the young, and with a choir of singers, which, though mainly made up of young people, have several grave men and women for their leaders.

The services commence; the sermon contains many pointed allusions to the critical state of affairs, and eyes sparkle and hearts throb as the pastor sanctifies the cause of liberty by mingling it with the exercises of religion, and justifies resistance to oppression by arguments from scripture. Just as the sermon is finished, a loud shout is heard upon the plain, the trampling of a hurried horse, an outcry of alarm, which brings the audience upon their feet: uproar enters the porch, the bell is violently rung, several persons rush into the body of the church, and amid the confusion



nothing can be heard, but "A battle! a battle has taken place on Bunker Hill! The British are beat! Hurrah! hurrah!" The meeting is broken up amid noisy shouts of "Huzza for Boston! Huzza for Liberty!" The audience rush out upon the plain, and gather round the panting courier; his despatches are read aloud; rejoicing and indignation, patriotism and military fire, hatred of British tyranny and defiance of British power, take the place of those quiet, devotional feelings, with which they assembled together.

That night, bells were rung, cannons were fired, bonfires blazed far and wide, and the Tree of Liberty was decked with triumphant devices. Enlistments too were begun, arms were burnished, addresses made, and tories insulted; nor even by these and a hundred other exuberant demonstrations of excited feeling, could the agitated minds of the people be scarcely appeased.

Among the audience that day, was a poor German basket-maker named John Malotte, a deserter from the English army that took Canada, some few years before, who, wandering through the wilderness, had come down into the northern part of Norwich, and there pursued the humble occupation which he followed in his native land, before he had been impressed as a soldier, and sent away to fight the battles of a foreign power. He was at this time but a spectator of the enthusiasm of others, but he, too, loved liberty; he treasured up the scene, and more than forty years afterwards described it for the amusement of a child, in such vivid colors that the above picture is but a remembered transcript of his recollections.

Undoubtedly there were some among the audience who did not cordially sympathize with these patriotic proceedings, and would therefore be stigmatized as tories and grumbletonians. The brothers Robertson, printers of the Norwich Packet, were perhaps of this number. We may join with them Mr. Thomas Leffingwell and Mr. Benjamin Butler, both men of talent and respectability, who remained loyal to the king during the whole contest. They were of course exposed to many insults, public and private, prosecuted, imprisoned, threatened with the skimmerton, and their goods impressed.

Mr. Butler was arrested and imprisoned in 1776, on a charge of "defaming the Honorable Continental Congress." His trial came on before the Superior Court at New London, and the fact being proved, he was prohibited from wearing arms, and declared incapable of holding office.

Mr. Butler regarded this sentence with indifference. He was a man of strong sense and original humor, and his company was much sought after on that account. He died of a lingering disease in the year 1787. A few years before, while in good health, he had selected a sapling, to have his coffin made of it when it should grow large enough; but finding that it increased too slowly, he had the coffin constructed of other wood, and

kept for a long time this affecting memento of his end constantly in his chamber. As he pined away, he would frequently put his hands upon his knees and say, "See how the mallets grow!" He lies interred in the Norwich grave-yard; his wife Diadema, and his two daughters, Rosamond and Minerva, repose by his side. "Alas, poor human nature!" is the expressive motto engraved by his own direction upon his head-stone.\*

Col. Eleazar Fitch, whose home was in Lebanon, but who was intimately connected, socially and in the way of business, with Norwich, was also a noted loyalist. He had served in the French war under British officers, and was devotedly attached to the king's service. He therefore resisted the uprising in favor of liberty, and went into exile, settling at St. John's, New Brunswick. The wives of four citizens of Norwich, viz., Ebenezer Backus, Erastus Backus, Ebenezer Whiting, and Hezekiah Perkins, were his daughters.

A little later in the same season, Norwich Green witnessed another Sabbath excitement growing out of the conflict that had commenced. On the 6th of August, 1775, a courier arrived in the midst of divine service, and proclaimed in the meeting-house porch that three men-of-war and eleven transports had appeared in the Sound, and were plying near Fisher's Island, just opposite New London harbor. The exercises ceased, the congregation rushed forth, and in the course of an hour a throng of able-bodied men were on their way to New London, prepared to assist in repelling an attack if any should be made.

It proved to be a foraging expedition sent out by the British, who then occupied Boston. The enemy destroyed all the shipping that came in their way, plundered Fisher's Island and the neighboring coast of Long Island of their stock, and departed.

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\* Minerva Denison, the wife of Commodore John Rodgers, was a grand-daughter of Mr. Butler. She was born at Norwich in 1784. The present Commodore John Rodgers, U. S. N., is her son.



## CHAPTER XXXI.

NORWICH DURING THE SEVEN YEARS WAR FOR LIBERTY. 1775-1783.

IN November, 1775, Dr. Benjamin Church was sent by Gen. Washington under a strong guard to Gov. Trumbull at Lebanon, with an order from Congress that he should "be closely confined in some secure gaol in Connecticut, without pen, paper, or ink, and that no person should be allowed to converse with him, except in the presence and hearing of a magistrate or a sheriff of the county where he should be confined, and in the English language, until further orders."

Gov. Trumbull directed that he should be kept in custody at Norwich, in charge of Prosper Wetmore, sheriff of New London county. Here he was detained during the winter in strict and cheerless seclusion. Mr. Edgerton, the gaoler, was directed to build a high picket fence around the prison, and even within this inclosure Dr. Church was not permitted to walk but once a week, and then with the sheriff at his side. This was harsh discipline to a man accustomed to a luxurious, independent style of living.

Dr. Church was a Boston physician of considerable literary ability, who had written songs and delivered orations in favor of American liberty, and had been a member of the Provincial Congress in 1774. He was an associate of Warren and other patriots; but in September, 1775, a letter written by him in cipher to his brother in Boston was intercepted and the contents found to be of a character so questionable that he was arrested and tried for holding a treasonable correspondence with the enemy. The letter, though it contained no positive treason, seemed to emanate from one who was feeling his way to treachery and dishonor.

Dr. Church was kept in Norwich until the 27th of May, 1776, when by order of Congress he was sent to Watertown, Mass. About the same time he obtained permission to retire to the West Indies, but the vessel in which he embarked was never heard of afterwards.

Norwich and some other towns in the eastern part of the State, remote from the sea-coast, were often charged with the safe-keeping of tories and other prisoners of war. Items like the following may be gathered from newspapers and public records:

Aug. 26, 1776. Last Saturday a number of gentlemen tories\* were brought to New London and sent from hence to Norwich.

—Ten persons arrested at New York and first imprisoned in Litchfield gaol have been transferred to Norwich.

Feb. 22, 1777. John L. C. Rome Esq. of New York, confined as a tory at Norwich, was released on his parole to return on request of the Governor and Council.

In August, 1776, the sheriff removed from New London to Preston twenty persons arrested in Albany for toryism. They remained at Preston for several months, and were allowed to live as they chose at their own expense, most of them paying for their board by their labor. The tory prisoners at Norwich were often distributed in private families and allowed their liberty within certain limits.

In March, 1782, a company of sailors, eight or ten in number, that had been taken in an English privateer, and sent up from New London for safe-keeping, broke out of jail in the night, and after lurking three or four days in the woods uncaught, succeeded in reaching New London, and by stealth got possession of a fine new coasting-sloop, just fitted for a voyage and fastened to one of the wharves, with which they escaped.

The large number of tories arrested during the earlier years of the war suggests one of the great trials that beset the patriot cause: secret enemies, opponents at home, were like thorns in the side, or serpents in the bosom. They were often arrested, but seldom kept long in durance. After the detention of a few days or weeks, they were generally dismissed, on giving bonds to return when called for, or upon taking oath not to bear arms against the country or to aid and comfort the enemy in any way.

In the summer of 1775, a battery or redoubt was built below the Landing on Waterman's Point. Benjamin Huntington and Ephraim Bill were directors of the work, but the labor was mostly performed by Capt. Lyon's company of militia,† that had been sent to Norwich on an alarm of invasion from vessels prowling in Long Island Sound. When the work was completed, four six-pounders were brought from New London, and a regular guard and watch kept. For further defence of the place, two wrought iron field-pieces and several other pieces of ordnance were mounted, manned, and placed in the charge of Capt. Jacob DeWitt.

William Lax established a manufactory of gun-carriages in town, and succeeded so well as to be employed by the State to furnish apparatus for

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\* In the accounts of the State Pay Table there is a startling item of £658 10s. 2d., drawn by J. Huntington of Windham, *for rum and coffee*, furnished to prisoners under his charge in August, 1777. This might lead us to conclude that either these *gentlemen tories* were very numerous, or that they were slightly luxurious in their habits and had uncommonly indulgent wardens. But it is probable that the amount is given in a depreciated currency.

† Capt. Ephraim Lyon of Col. Putnam's regiment.



much of the cannon used by them. Elijah Backus, Esq., at his forges upon the Yantic, manufactured the ship anchors used for the State's armed vessels, two of which weighed 1200 lbs. each. He afterwards engaged in the casting of cannon. Samuel Noyes made and repaired guns and bayonets for the light-infantry.

Capt. Ephraim Bill, of Norwich, was in the service of the State as a marine agent, and Capt. Jabez Perkins as contractor and dispenser of the public stores. The Governor and Council of Safety sometimes held their sessions in town.

Norwich was admirably situated to serve as a port of refuge to which vessels could retire and discharge their cargoes in safety. In July, 1775, the brig *Nancy*, owned by Josiah Winslow, a well-known royalist of Boston, having on board eighteen or nineteen thousand gallons of molasses, was forced by stress of weather into Stonington harbor. It was no sooner known at Norwich that she had anchored near the coast, than her capture was decreed. Without waiting for the State authority, but with the sanction of the Committee of Inspection, a spirited band of volunteers, in a large sloop commanded by Capt. Robert Niles, proceeded forthwith to Stonington, where they took possession of the vessel, and brought her, with the cargo, round to Norwich. They then made report of the affair to the Governor and Council, who approved of their proceedings, and sequestered the prize for the use of the State.

The *tory molasses*, as it was called, proved a valuable acquisition. It was doled out to hospitals, and used as a medium of exchange for public purposes. Molasses was a commodity which could only be obtained by capture, and the want of it was one of the home-felt privations of the war.\*

The scarcity of sugar and molasses continued for several years. Various were the substitutes contrived. Corn-stalk molasses is no myth or caricature, but a veritable resource of those trying times, and probably the best substitute that was brought into use. The stalks were cut when the ears of corn were just ripe for roasting or boiling, thrown into a mill, the juice pressed out and then boiled down until it became a tolerable syrup. It served at least to satisfy the natural craving of the appetite for saccharine matter, some portion of which in food seems to be requisite both for nourishment and delight.

In October, 1775, another merchant vessel was seized under circumstances similar to those of the *Nancy*. She had a cargo of 8,000 bushels

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\* By the side of this fact, an order of the Governor and Council, May 4, 1777, for the distillation of 40 hhd. of molasses into New England rum does not appear very creditable. But spirituous liquors were then regarded as absolutely necessary to the highest physical efficiency of soldiers and laboring men. Feb. 28, 1777, the Governor and Council ordered 250 hhd. of West India and New England rum to be purchased to supply the troops of the State. Hinman, 419, 441.



of wheat, shipped at Baltimore for Falmouth, England, and was steering toward Stonington in distress, having lost her mainmast in a storm, when she was seized by an armed schooner belonging to the colony, and conducted to Norwich to secure her from recapture. She was subsequently sold for the benefit of the country.

A very great evil experienced during the war, was the high price of salt, and the difficulty of procuring it at any price. It was almost impossible to get a sufficiency to put up provisions for winter's use. The State government was obliged to send abroad for supplies of this necessary article, and distribute it to the various towns. It was then apportioned by the selectmen to the districts in proportion to their population, and again dealt out by a committee to individuals.

Whenever a quantity of salt was obtained, it was disposed of with great care and consideration. One of the State cruisers having taken 300 bushels, it was deposited at Norwich, and in April, 1777, the Governor and Council directed Jabez Perkins to dispose of it to inhabitants of Connecticut only, to allow no family to purchase more than half a bushel, and small families to be supplied with less in proportion.\*

Three years before the peace, salt was six dollars per bushel and bohea tea two dollars per pound, and this in fair barter, not continental bills. Common cream-colored cups and saucers were two dollars per half-dozen. Many persons in comfortable circumstances drank their daily beverage out of glazed earthen mugs.

The scarcity of wheat was a still greater calamity. Norwich of course shared in the general dearth, but the winter of 1777 appears to have been her only season of actual deficiency and short allowance. The authorities were obliged to enforce a strict scrutiny into every man's means of subsistence, to see that none of the necessities of life were withheld from a famishing community by monopolizers and avaricious engrossers. Each family was visited, and an account of the grain in their possession, computed in wheat, was taken. The surplusage, down to the quantity of four quarts, was estimated. One hundred and twenty-six families were at one time reported deficient, viz.:

"42 up town, 26 down town, 12 West Farms and Portipaug, 2 Newent and Hanover, 9 East Society, 27 Chelsea, 8 Bozrah."

The following certificate is also upon record, and though without date, belongs to this season:

This may certify, that the whole number of inhabitants in the town of Norwich is hungry; for the quantity of grain computed in wheat is scanty; the deficiency amounts to a great many bushels, as pr return of the selectmen unto my office, agreeable to the act of assembly. Certified by

GALETTIA SIMPSON.

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\* Hinman's Am. Rev., p. 431, 441.



These facts in regard to the scant supply of the necessities of life apply only to the earlier years of the war.\* After 1780, the tide turned, and in Norwich, at least, the farms prospered, the mechanic arts flourished, and there was almost a superabundance not merely of the means of living, but of articles of luxury and display.

Those who remained at home, as well as those who went into actual service, were often called on to perform military duty. When most of the able-bodied men were drawn off, a *Reformado corps* was established, consisting of those whose age, infirmities, or other circumstances, would not allow them to become regular soldiers, and endure the fatigue of the camp, but who were willing to go forth on a sudden emergency.

Early in 1776, Capt. McCall and Lieut. Jacob DeWitt enrolled and organized a fine company of Veteran Guards for home service, and defence of the State, should it be invaded. These were well equipped with arms in readiness for sudden emergencies. On the 12th of August, 1776, Gov. Trumbull issued an order to Capt. McCall to convene his company, and enlist as many as were willing, and to make up with others a company, not less than 93, and march immediately to New York, in the most convenient manner by land or water, and there join the 19th regiment of Connecticut militia. This order was in consequence of a pressing requisition from Gen. Washington for reinforcements.

The Veteran Guards were subsequently often called out on short tours of duty upon alarms near the sea-coast, at New London, Lyme, or Stonington.

In 1779, a company under Capt. Ebenezer Lathrop, and another under Capt. Ziba Hunt of Newent, performed tours of duty at New London.

In 1777, Connecticut raised eleven regiments: nine for Continental service, and two for the defence of the State. Col. Jedidiah Huntington and Col. John Durkee of Norwich commanded two of the Continental regiments.

The army was in a great measure dependent upon importations from France, for a sufficiency of arms and ammunition. The following vote of the Governor and Council of Connecticut alludes to a fresh supply of these necessary equipments:

Sept. 26, 1777. It was voted that Maj. Gen. Huntington should be desired to cause to be made up 15,000 musket cartridges fitted to the new French arms provided for the use of the Continental army, and pack them in bunches of 18 cartridges each and lodge them in some safe place in the town of Plainfield.†

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\* At this very period of greatest scarcity, there was at least one distillery in operation in the town, as we learn from the records of the War Committee, or Council of Safety, Dec. 11, 1777, to wit:

“The Governor was desired to grant a license to Caleb Huntington of Norwich to distil from rye, the spirit called Geneva, to supply the inhabitants of the State as far as he could, provided he retail the same at a reasonable price, not to exceed 15s. per gallon.”

† Hinman's Rev. War.

In the earlier periods of the contest, the town's quota of soldiers was always quickly raised, and the necessary supplies furnished with promptness and liberality. The requisitions of the Governor were responded to from no quarter with more cheerfulness and alacrity. In September, 1777, when extraordinary exertions were made in many parts of New England to procure tents, canteens and clothing for the army, many householders in Norwich voluntarily gave up to the committee of the town all that they could spare from their own family stock, either as donations, or where that could not be afforded, at a very low rate. The ministers of all the churches, on Thanksgiving day, exhorted the people *to remember the poor soldiers and their families*.

Every year while the war continued, persons were appointed by the town to provide for the soldiers and their families at the town expense; but much also was raised by voluntary contributions. The following items from contemporary newspapers furnish examples:

"On the last Sabbath of December, 1777, a contribution was taken up in the several parishes of Norwich, for the benefit of the officers and soldiers who belonged to said town: when they collected

386 pr. of stockings,	208 pr. of mittens,
227 pr. of shoes,	11 buff caps,
118 shirts,	15 pr. of breeches,
78 jackets,	9 coats,
48 pr. of overalls,	22 rifle frocks,

19 handkerchiefs and £258 17s. 8d. in money, which was forwarded to the army. Also collected a quantity of pork, cheese, wheat, rye, Indian corn, sugar, rice, flax, wood, &c. to be distributed to the needy families of the officers and soldiers. The whole of which amounted to the sum of £1400."

Norwich, Feb. 15, 1779.

Yesterday a contribution was made at the Rev. Dr. Lord's meeting, for the distressed inhabitants of Newport, which have lately arrived from Providence, when the sum of three hundred dollars was collected for their relief.

March, 1780.

Mrs. Corning (wife of Mr. Joseph Corning now a prisoner with the enemy) being destitute of necessary clothing for her children, a number of the ladies of Chelsea, of the first character and respectability, appointed a day on which they assembled and spent the same in spinning, after which they presented Mrs. Corning with the yarn to a considerable amount.

The situation of New London was one of constant alarm, in which all the surrounding towns participated. It was menaced in December, 1776, when the hostile fleet found a rendezvous among the small islands in the Sound, previous to taking possession of Newport. All the militia in the eastern part of the State turned out to oppose the expected descent. It was observed, as band after band marched into New London, that



company, in order and equipments, equaled the Light Infantry of Norwich, under the command of Col. Chr. Leffingwell. Many times during the war, the militia were summoned to New London or Stonington, on the appearance of an armed force, or the rumor of one. If a hostile vessel entered the Sound, no one knew its commission, and the alarm was quickly spread from the seaboard into the country. The dreaded foe perhaps hovered near the coast a few hours, made some startling feints, and then passed away. Orders were given and countermanded, and the wearied militia, hastily drawn from their homes, returned again without having had the satisfaction of seeing the enemy, or of arriving on the spot before the danger was over.

Detachments from the Continental army frequently passed through Norwich. In 1778, a body of French troops, on the route from Providence to the south, halted there for ten or fifteen days, on account of sickness among them. They had their tents spread upon the plain, while the sick were quartered in the court-house. About twenty died and were buried each side of the lane that led into the old burying-yard. No stones were set up, and the ground was soon smoothed over so as to leave no trace of the narrow tenements below.

Gen. Washington passed through Norwich in June, 1775, on his way to Cambridge. It is probable that he came up the river in a packet boat with his horses and attendants. He spent the night at the Landing, and the next day pursued his journey eastward. In April, 1776, after the evacuation of Boston by the enemy, the American troops being ordered to New York, came on in detachments by land, and crossing the Shetucket at the old fording-place below Greeneville, embarked at Norwich and New London, to finish the route by water. Gen. Washington accompanied one of the parties to Norwich, and met Gov. Trumbull by appointment at Col. Jedidiah Huntington's, where they dined together, and the General that evening resumed his route to New York, going down to New London by land.

The inhabitants also had an opportunity of seeing La Fayette, Steuben, Pulaski, and other distinguished foreigners in our service. There were some who long remembered the appearance of the noble La Fayette, as he passed through the place on his way to Newport. He had been there before, and needed no guide; his aids and a small body-guard were with him, and he rode up to the door of his friend, Col. Jedidiah Huntington, in a quick gallop. He wore a blue military coat, but no vest and no *stockings*; his boots being short, his leg was consequently left bare for a considerable space below the knee. The speed with which he was traveling, and the great heat of the weather, were sufficient excuses for this negligence. He took some refreshment and hastened forward.

At another period, he passed through with a detachment of 2,000 men

under his command, and encamped them for one night upon the plain. In the morning, before their departure, he invited Mr. Strong, the pastor of the place, to pray with them, which he did, the troops being arranged in three sides of a hollow square.

Nearly fifty years afterwards, Aug. 21, 1824, the venerable La Fayette again passed through Norwich. Some old people, who remembered him, embraced him and wept; the General wept also.

At one time during the war, the Duke de Lauzun's regiment of hussars was quartered in Lebanon, ten miles from Norwich. Col. Jedidiah Huntington invited the officers to visit him, and prepared a handsome entertainment for them. They made a superb appearance as they drove into town, being young, tall, vivacious men, with handsome faces and a noble air, mounted upon horses bravely caparisoned. The two Dillons, brothers, one a major and the other a captain in the regiment, were particularly distinguished for their fine forms and expressive features. One or both of these Dillons suffered death from the guillotine during the French Revolution.

Lauzun was one of the most accomplished but unprincipled noblemen of his time. He was celebrated for his handsome person, his liberality, wit, bravery; but more than all for his profligacy. He was born in 1747, inherited great wealth and high titles, and spent all his early years in alternate scenes of dissipation and traveling. He engaged in no public enterprise till he came to America and took part in the Revolutionary contest. The motives which actuated this voluptuous nobleman to this undertaking are not understood; very probably the thirst for adventure, and personal friendship for La Fayette. He had run the career of pleasure to such an extent that he was perhaps willing to pause awhile and restore the energy of his satiated taste. Certain it is, that he embarked in the cause of the Americans with ardor, bore privations with good temper, and made himself very popular by his hilarity and generous expenditure.

After Lauzun returned to Europe, he became intimate with Talleyrand and accompanied him on a mission to England in 1792, where one of his familiar associates was the Prince of Wales, afterwards George IV. On the death of his uncle, the Duke de Biron, he succeeded to the title, quarreled with the court, and became a partizan of the Duke of Orleans. Afterwards he served against the Vendéans, but being accused of secretly favoring them, was condemned, and executed the last day of the year 1793. Such was the future stormy career of this celebrated nobleman, who, as already mentioned, in the midst of friends and subordinates, enjoyed the banquet made for him by Col. Huntington. After dinner the whole party went out into the yard in front of the house, and made the air ring with huzzas for Liberty! Numerous loungers had gathered around the fence



to get a sight of these interesting foreigners, with whom they conversed in very good English, and exhorted *to live free, or die for Liberty*.

It is well known that during the Revolutionary war attempts were made to regulate the prices of articles by public statutes, in order to reduce the quantity of the circulating medium. In Connecticut, prices were fixed by the civil authorities of each town, in all cases not determined by acts of Assembly.

April 7, 1777. Voted, strictly to adhere to the law of the State regulating the prices of the necessaries of life; and we do resolve with cheerfulness to exert our best endeavours within our sphere, to support the honor of that good and salutary law.

Dec. 29. Voted, that the town consider the articles of confederation and perpetual union proposed by the Continental Congress wise and salutary.

1778. Abstract of instructions to the representatives of the town :

1. To use their influence to have taxes more equitable.
2. To have bills of credit called in.
3. Forfeited estates confiscated.
4. The yeas and nays on all important questions published.
5. Profane swearing punished by disability to sustain offices.

Oct. 1. Voted, to present a memorial to the General Assembly, praying for a just and equitable system of taxation and representation.

Extract from the memorial :

“The Poll-tax your memorialists consider at the present day, an insupportable burden on the poor, while a great part of the growing estate of the rich is by law exempt from taxation. The present mode of representation is also objected to by your memorialists. They believe all who pay taxes and are of sober life and conversation, ought to have a voice in all public communities, where their monies and properties are disposed of for public uses.”

It is not surprising that the subject of taxation should be one of exciting interest in a community who were annually paying 6*d.*, 9*d.* and 12*d.* on the pound for the use of the army. At one time in Connecticut, when the currency was at par, a rate of even 14*d.* was necessary to meet the exigencies of the treasury.

The town afterwards presented another petition to the Assembly, the substance of which was, that every kind of property, and that only, should be the object of taxation. This general principle, they say, is in their view the only equitable one. Committees were sent to several neighboring towns, to get their minds on the subject, and they at length resolved to publish, at the expense of the town, the prevalent views of the citizens on taxation, in the form of a letter to the freemen of the State, a copy of it to be sent to every town. In this letter the deficiencies of the existing system were ably pointed out.

"By the present system, six of the poorest swine a year old are rated equal to £100 in cash at interest, and 30 such swine equal to a house of £1000. The meanest horse, even 30 years old, is on a par with the best in his prime. An acre of the best land is rated no higher than the poorest that is arable in the State.

"Industry, which ought to be encouraged, is doubly taxed and that in a very capricious and vague manner."

The objections against the poll-tax were these :

"That it is a personal tax, and ought to be paid in personal service, that is, in defending the community ; that it is a double tax, the poor man paying for his poll, which is the substitute for his labor, and for the avails of his labor also ; that it is impolitic, as tending to prevent early marriages, which promote industry, frugality, and every social virtue."

The committee upon this memorial were some of the choice spirits of Norwich,—Benjamin Huntington, Dr. Theophilus Rogers, Dr. Elisha Tracy, Aaron Cleveland, Jonathan Huntington, and Nathaniel Niles. The document has strong points, but it is not known from which of the members it emanated.

Again, three years later, (1781,) the town made another effort to obtain their favorite measures,—the abrogation of the poll-tax, and the extension of the right of suffrage. The instructions given to the representatives embraced the following measures :

That polls be struck out of the tax list, or rated low.

That all who pay taxes be allowed to vote, if of good moral character.

That debates in the House be open.

That absentees be fined.

That a regular constitution be formed.

In October, 1780, a convention was held at Hartford to consider what measures should be taken in regard to trade and currency. The delegates from Norwich were Daniel Rodman and Solomon Safford ; the committee to draft their instructions, Elisha Lathrop, Christopher Leffingwell, and Aaron Cleveland. They were directed to urge the loaning of money to Congress to defray the public expenses and prevent the necessity of a further emission of paper money.

In town meeting, June 24, 1780,—

"Voted, that a committee of fifty able, judicious men be appointed to engage fifty able-bodied, effective men, required of this town to fill up our complement of the Continental Army for three years, or during the war ; each member of the committee to procure one soldier, and pay him twenty silver dollars bounty, over and above the bounty given by the state, and pay him the same annually, as long as he continues in the service ; also 40s. per month in silver money, or Indian corn at 3s. per bushel, fresh pork at 3d. per pound, and wheat at 6s. per bushel."

The committee were not able to carry this vote into effect : the term of enlistment was too long ; nor were the men raised until by a subsequent



vote the term of service was restricted to six months. In July of the same year, upon a requisition of the Governor, twenty-seven more men were enlisted for six months, to whom the same bounty and pay were given.

The General Assembly had passed an act to arrange all the inhabitants of the State into classes, each class to raise so many recruits and furnish such and such clothing and other supplies. Norwich at first refused to enter upon this system, and remonstrated. With great reluctance, the measure was at last adopted by the inhabitants, and being found to accomplish the end, was continued through the war, though it was never popular with them.

After recovering from the first stunning blow of the Revolution, the inhabitants of Norwich were not only alert in turning their attention to various industrial pursuits, but engaged also in the brilliant chance game of privateering. The war, therefore, while it exhausted the strength and resources of neighboring towns that lay exposed upon the sea-coast, acted like a spur to the enterprise of Norwich. New London at the mouth of the river was depressed in all her interests, kept in continual alarm, and finally, by the blazing torch of the enemy, almost swept from the face of the earth; but Norwich, securely seated at the head of the river, defended by her hills and nourished by her valleys, planting and reaping without fear of invasion or loss, not only built new shops and dwelling-houses, and engaged with spirit and success in a variety of new manufactures, but entered into ship-building, and boldly sent out her vessels to bring in spoils from the ocean.

In 1781 and 1782, the town was overflowing with merchandise, both tropical and European.\* New mercantile firms were established: Daniel Rodman, Samuel Woodbridge, Lynde McCurdy, and others,—and lavish varieties of fancy texture, as well as the substantial products of almost every climate, were offered for sale. The shelves and counters of the fashionable class of shops displayed such articles as superfine broadcloths, men's silk hose, India silks, Damascus silks, taffetas, satins, Persians, and velvets, blonde lace, gauzes, and chintzes. These goods were mostly obtained by successful privateering.

Another class of merchandise, generally of a cheaper kind, and not dealt in by honorable traders, but covertly offered for sale in various places, or distributed by peddlers, was obtained by secret and unlawful intercourse with the enemy.

The coast of Connecticut being entirely girdled by Long Island and New York, and the British and tories having these wholly under their

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\* In May, 1782, a very large stock and great variety of European goods, imported in the brigantine *Firebrand* from Amsterdam, was sold by auction at the store of Messrs. Zabdiel Rogers & Co., Bean Hill.

control, it was very difficult to prevent the secret intercourse and traffic of the two parties through the Sound. In the later years of the war especially, a corrupt, underhand, smuggling trade prevailed to a great extent, which was emboldened by the indifference or connivance of the local authorities, and stimulated by the readiness of people to purchase cheap goods without asking from whence they came. Remittances for these goods must be made in coin, therefore they were sold only for cash, which, finding its way back to the enemy's lines, impoverished the country. Thus the traffic operated against agriculture and manufactures, against honest labor and lawful trade. Moreover, it nullified the laws and brought them into contempt.

Against this illicit traffic a strong association was formed at Norwich in July, 1782. The company bound themselves by solemn pledges of life, fortune, and honor, to support the civil authority, to hold no intercourse, social or mercantile, with persons detected in evading the laws; to furnish men and boats for keeping watch in suspected places, and to search out and break up all deposits of smuggled goods,—such goods to be seized, sold, and the avails devoted to charitable purposes.

The vigorous manner in which this company began to carry out their principles caused great commotion in the ranks of the guilty parties. Suspected persons suddenly disappeared; sales were postponed; goods which before had been openly exposed, withdrew into cellars and meal-chests, or were concealed in barns under the hay, and in hollow trees, thickets, and ravines.

Several seizures were made during the season, but the treaty of peace soon put an end to this clandestine traffic, and the association had but a brief existence.

Its object, however, was creditable to the patriotism and efficiency of the inhabitants, and a list of the signers gives us the names of sixty-eight prominent men who were on the stage of life at the close of the war, and all within the bounds of the present town.

MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION AGAINST ILLICIT TRADE,\* ALPHABETICALLY  
ARRANGED.

Samuel Abbot,	Simeon Carew,	Joseph Howland,
Elijah Backus,	Thomas Coit,	Andrew Huntington,
Ephraim Bill,	William Coit,	Eliphalet Huntington,
Jonathan Boardman,	John Crary,	Jonathan Huntington,
John M. Breed,	Jacob DeWitt,	Joshua Huntington,
Shubael Breed,	Michael Dumont,	Levi Huntington,
Samuel Capron,	Thomas Fanning,	Simeon Huntington,
Eliphalet Carew,	Jabez Fitch,	William Hubbard,
Joseph Carew,	Joseph Gale,	Russell Hubbard & Son,

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\* Conn. Gazette, Vol. 19.



Ebenezer Jones,	Asa Peabody,	Ransford Rose,
Joshua Lathrop,	Nathaniel P. Peabody,	Andrew Tracy, Jr.
Rufus Lathrop,	Joseph Peck,	Mundator Tracy,
Christopher Leffingwell,	Andrew Perkins,	Samuel Tracy,
Benajah Leffingwell,	Jabez Perkins,	Asa Waterman, Jr.
Jonathan Lester,	Jabez Perkins, Jr.	Samuel Wheat,
Elihu Marvin,	Joseph Perkins,	Joseph Whitmarsh,
John McCall,	Joseph Perkins, Jr.	Benajah Williams,
Lynde McCurdy,	Erastus Perkins,	Joseph Williams,
Seth Miner,	Hezekiah Perkins,	Jacob Witter,
Thomas Mumford,	Levi Perkins,	Dudley Woodbridge,
Nathaniel Niles,	Daniel Rodman,	Samuel Woodbridge,
Robert Niles,	Theophilus Rogers,	Alexander Youngs.
Timothy Parker,	Zabdiel Rogers,	

In January, 1781, the inhabitants were divided into forty classes, to raise forty soldiers, which was their quota for the Continental army; and again, into twenty classes for a State quota to serve at Horseneck and elsewhere. A list of persons in each class was made out, and each taxed in due proportion for the pay and fitting out of one recruit, whom they were to procure; two shirts, two pairs of woollen stockings, shoes and mittens were requisite for every soldier; arms and uniforms were furnished by the state or country.

Each soldier's family was in the charge of a committee to see that they were supplied with the necessaries of life, for which the soldier's wages to a certain amount were pledged. The whole number of classes this year to procure clothing was 66.

In 1782, only 33 classes were required.

1783. Instructions were given to the representatives to use their influence with the Assembly to obtain a remonstrance against the five years' pay granted by Congress to the officers of the Continental army. The manifesto of the town on this subject was fiery, dictatorial, and extravagant. A few paragraphs will show in strong relief the characteristics of the people,—jealous of their rights, quick to take alarm, and sensitively watchful over their cherished liberties.

“Where is the free son of America that ever had it in idea when adopting the articles of confederation to have pensions bestowed on those characters (if any such there be) whose virtue could not hold them in service without such rewards over and above the contract which first engaged them.”

“For a free people, just rising out of a threatening slavery, into free shining prospects of a most glorious peace and independence, now to be taxed without their consent to support and maintain a large number of gentlemen as pensioners, in a time of universal peace, is, in our view, unconstitutional and directly in opposition to the sentiment of the states at large, and was one great spoke in the wheel which moved at first our late struggle with our imperious and tyrannical foes.”

Further instructions were given at the same time to the representatives to urge upon the Assembly the necessity of keeping a watchful eye upon the proceedings of Congress, to see that they did not exceed the powers vested in them, and to appoint a committee at every session to take into consideration the journals of Congress, and approve or disapprove, applaud or censure the conduct of the delegates.

At no period during the war were the people of Norwich alarmed with the fear of a direct invasion of the enemy, except at the time of the attack on New London, Sept. 6, 1781. It was then rumored that Arnold, inflamed with hatred against the country he had betrayed, and cherishing a vengeful spirit towards his native town, had determined at all hazards to march thither and spread desolation through the homes of his ancient friends and neighbors. Preparations were therefore made to receive him; goods were packed, and women and children made ready for flight. The fiery patriots of Norwich wished for nothing more than that he should attempt to march thither, as it would give them a long coveted opportunity of wreaking their vengeance on the traitor. But the undertaking was too hazardous; Arnold, if he had the will, was too prudent to attempt anything but a sudden and transient attempt upon the sea-board.

The last time that the militia were called out during the war, was in September, 1782. A detail of the circumstances will serve as a specimen of the harrassing alarms which had previously often occurred.

Benajah Leffingwell was then lieutenant-colonel of the twentieth regiment, and at seven o'clock in the morning an express reached him with the following order:

To Major Leffingwell: I have certain intelligence that there is a large fleet in the Sound, designed for some part of the Main—would hereby request you without loss of time, to notify the regiment under your command to be ready to march at the shortest notice—also send expresses to New London immediately for further news, and continue expresses as occasion may be. Your humble servant in the greatest haste,

SAMUEL M'CLELLAND, Colonel.

Wednesday morning, six o'clock.

I have much more to say if I had time. I am on the road to New London from Windham, where express came to me in the night.

Before nine o'clock the whole regiment had been summoned to turn out with one or two days' provisions, and be ready to march on hearing the alarm guns.

The regiment upon the ground that day, as the returns of the orderly-book show, consisted of one field officer, thirty-five commissioned officers, and 758 men, in eleven companies, under the following captains:

Joseph Carew,	Moses Stephens,	Jonathan Waterman,
Samuel Wheat,	William Pride,	Samuel Lovett,
Isaac Johnson,	Jabez Deming,	Jacob DeWitt.
Nathan Waterman,	Abner Ladd,	



Orders at last came for them to march ; they were just ready to start, when the order was countermanded ; again an express arrived, saying that the fleet appeared to be bound in, and orders were issued to stand ready : one hour they heard that the enemy was making preparations for a descent ; the next, that the fleet was moving up the Sound. Finally, the hostile ships having explored Gardiner's Bay, flitted out of the Sound, and the militia, after two days of harrassing suspense, were dismissed to their homes.

Concerning the manner in which the inhabitants testified their joy at the grand results of the seven years of war,—independence achieved, and the restoration of peace,—no published accounts have been found. According to current reminiscences, the public rejoicings were boisterous and extravagant. The throng of people assembled on the Green was beyond all precedent, and great excesses were committed in the way of rioting and drinking.

But these were the revelries of an excited multitude. The demonstrations of other classes were of a deeper, nobler character. An intelligent lady still living (1865) remembers the celebration as the great event of her childhood. She describes the crowd upon the Green ; their joyous greetings and congratulations ; the shaking of hands, waving of flags, firing, drumming, shouting, and the large bonfires at night.

The following Sabbath the church was filled with a dense crowd, all in their best array, smiling and happy. The choir of singers appeared with brilliant decorations, and sung an ode adapted to the occasion, in the tune of Worcester, of which the following was the opening stanza :

Behold a radiant light !  
And by divine command,  
Fair Peace, the child of Heaven, descends  
To this afflicted land.

## CHAPTER XXXII.

MARINE AFFAIRS. 1776-1783.

IN 1776, Connecticut ordered four row-galleys to be built. Three only were completed: the Shark, built at Norwich by Capt. Jonathan Lester; the Crane, at East Haddam; and the Whiting, at New Haven.

Capt. Lester went to Philadelphia for the plan of the Shark. Her dimensions were, "sixty feet keel, eighteen feet beam, five feet hold, and four inches dead rising."\* These galleys carried two pieces of ordnance, six or nine pounders, and fifty men (including officers), and were furnished with lances, poles, and hatchets.

They were all sent to New York soon after they were rigged and manned, at the request of General Washington, to be used on the Hudson river. The Shark was at first commanded by Theophilus Stanton, but while in service at New York, by Capt. Roger Fanning.

Capt. Lester had but just completed the Shark, when he received (July 2d) an order from Gov. Trumbull to hasten immediately with twenty-five carpenters to Crown Point, to build batteaux for the Lake, upon a requisition of Gen. Schuyler.

Capt. Robert Niles of Norwich was a ship-master of experience in the merchant service before the war, and one of the earliest band of Revolutionary cruisers. In July, 1775, Benjamin Huntington of Norwich and John Deshon of New London were appointed agents of the colony to charter a fast-sailing vessel to go from place to place, carry intelligence, convey stores, and watch the enemy. They purchased the schooner *Britannia* at Stonington for £200, and brought her into the Thames, where she was fitted and furnished with a crew; her name changed to the *Spy*, and Capt. Niles appointed her commander. His commission from Gov. Trumbull was dated Aug. 7, 1775. The *Spy* was about 50 tons burden, carried six 4-pounders, and usually about twenty men, but sometimes thirty.†

But though small in size, the *Spy* was invaluable in the amount of service she performed. She conveyed intelligence, and transported stores

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\* As master-builder, his pay was one Spanish dollar per day.

† The pay of a seaman was from 40s. to 48s. per month.



along the coast. She was sent to Maryland for flour, and to the West Indies with hoops and staves to barter for island produce. She also took several rich prizes, among which was the *Dolphin*, a larger vessel than herself and more heavily armed, being of 80 tons burden, and to this Capt. Niles was for a short time transferred. In June, 1778, he was employed by the Government to carry to France an official copy of the ratified treaty with that kingdom, to perform which duty he again took command of the *Spy*. He arrived at Brest in twenty-one days, having passed undetected through a considerable British fleet that was cruising off the coast of France, in avoiding which he displayed the dexterity and vigilance of a thorough seaman. Six copies of the treaty were dispatched by different vessels, but this is supposed to have been the only one that reached its destination. Its arrival hastened the departure of recruits and stores that were preparing in France for the aid of the American cause.

The lieutenant of the *Spy* was Zebediah Smith, and the last survivor of her crew was Capt. Benjamin Coit, who died at Norwich in 1841, aged eighty-three. He had enlisted in the naval service at the age of eighteen.

Capt. Niles was a native of Groton; born in the year 1734, and died at Norwich in 1818.\*

Lieut. Smith was lost at sea in December, 1791.

In the early part of the war, two other Norwich captains, Seth Harding and Timothy Parker, by their seamanship and success reflected honor upon the Connecticut marine. Capt. Harding was successively in command of the brig *Defence*, 14 guns, the *Oliver Cromwell*, 18, and the *Confederacy*, 32, all owned by the State.

The *Defence* was built in 1776, at Hayden's ship-yard on the Connecticut river, under the superintendence of Capt. Harding and Benjamin Huntington. Capt. Ephraim Bill directed her rigging, and Elijah Backus forged her anchors. In her first trip out, 18th or 19th of June, 1776, she captured near the opening of Boston Bay, two British transports, a ship and a brig, the former with 210 soldiers, and the latter 112, belonging to Frazer's Highland regiment. Col. Campbell was also among the prisoners. In a subsequent cruise the same year, Capt. Harding took a merchant vessel, called the *John*, of 200 tons burden, with a valuable cargo of West India produce, and also a Guinea ship.

The *Defence* was afterward altered into a ship, and seems never again to have been very fortunate. Capt. Harding was transferred to the *Oliver Cromwell*, and in June, 1777, captured the brig *Medway*, with stores; in July, the brigantine *Honor*, valued at £10,692; and in September, the

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\* In 1856, Congress granted a pension to Miss Hannah Niles, the only surviving child of Capt. Robert Niles.

packet ship Weymouth, carrying 15 guns and a crew of 50 men. Capt. Parker, who had been Harding's first lieutenant, succeeded him in the command of the Cromwell, and April 13, 1778, after a smart action, took the Admiral Keppel, an English letter-of-marque, mounting 18 sixes. Several of Capt. Parker's men were wounded; Capt. James Day, of the marines, mortally. The prize was sent into Boston, and sold at auction on the 8th of July for £22,320.

In May, 1779, the Oliver Cromwell sailed from New London, and though absent only twelve days, took four prizes and brought in sixty prisoners. But running out again, June 1st, she encountered, June 5th, off Sandy Hook, the British frigate Daphne, and after a sharp engagement of two hours, Capt. Parker seeing another vessel coming to the aid of the enemy, surrendered. He was soon exchanged, and reached home early in August, with forty-six of his men.

The Governor Trumbull, a privateer carrying 18 or 20 guns, was built at Willett's ship-yard in 1777, for Howland & Coit. She was considered almost a model ship. Her first commander, Capt. Henry Billings, had been tested both for gallantry and skillful seamanship, as lieutenant of the armed brig Defence, and a career of brilliant success was anticipated for her. She sailed on her first cruise in November, 1778, and made several small captures, but early the next year went out under the command of Capt. Dudley Saltonstall, and meeting with the British frigate Venus, a vessel of greater size and efficiency, was obliged to surrender. Her captors took her to the West Indies, where she recruited and was sent forth under a changed name and flag to prey upon her former friends.

Before sailing, she was thus advertised in the Gazette, Nov. 17, 1778:

"The fine new ship Governor Trumbull, Henry Billings commander, now lying in the harbor of New London, mounting 20 carriage guns, will sail in six days, &c. Apply on board, or to Howland & Coit, Norwich."

Her capture was announced in the tory paper at New York.

April 5, 1779. "The rebel frigate Trumbull is taken by the Venus and sent into St. Kitts."

The Venus herself was originally an American ship called the Bunker Hill, captured by the British, and her name changed.

The Confederacy, a continental ship of 32 guns, was one of two frigates ordered by Congress to be built in Connecticut, under the direction of the Governor and Council of Safety.\* It was constructed at Norwich by Jedediah Willett, under the superintendence of Major Joshua Huntington, who, as agent of the State, procured materials and workmen. She

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\* The other was the Trumbull, 28 guns, and built at Chatham in Connecticut river.



was built chiefly of *tory-timber*; the oak for her keel having been brought from the confiscated land of William Browne, in Salem, Ct.; locust trees for her trunnels were felled from a lot in New London, owned by a Boston royalist; and planks from the confiscated groves of other refugees performed their part in fashioning her hull and laying her deck. She was launched Nov. 8, 1778, and towed down the river on the 30th to be rigged and recruited at New London.\*

Capt. Seth Harding was the first and only American commander of the Confederacy. She was ordered to France, carrying as passengers, Mr. Jay, the American minister, and Count de Gerard, a French envoy, but had not been long out when she encountered a furious gale, in which she rolled over, lost her masts, and though she righted again, was forced to steer for the nearest friendly port in the West Indies, to refit.

The following notice is from the Martinico Gazette of Dec. 16, 1779:

“The Continental Frigate Confederacy, 40 guns, Capt. Harding, came into our road. She left Philadelphia Oct. 27, destined for France, met with a gale on the banks of Newfoundland,† lost her masts, had six feet of water in the hold, and arrived in the midst of perils. The Count de Gerard, late minister from the Court of France to the United States, and his Excellency John Jay, who goes to represent the States at the Court of Madrid, were on board.

“They [the ambassadors] sailed from Martinico for France Nov. 28, in the French frigate L’Aurore.”

The Confederacy refitted at Martinico, and returned home. She was next sent to Cape François for clothing and other supplies for the army, and on the homeward voyage encountered two vessels of the enemy, a ship of the line and a frigate, to which she surrendered June 22, 1781. The British slightly changed her name, calling her the Confederate, and sent her to England as convoy to a fleet of transports, and with nearly 100 prisoners on board, consisting chiefly of the crews of two New London privateers which they had taken.

The privateering business not only kept the harbor of New London lively with its shifting scenes, but gave animation to all eastern Connecticut. Many spirited seamen were gathered from the banks of the Thames and of its branches. Capt. Thomas Parke, Nathan Moore, Nathan Pe-

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\* In the accounts of Joshua Huntington, the charges to the ship Confederacy amounted to £29,369.18.10; commission upon this, £1,453.9.10: total, £30,823.8.8. A number of Indians were among the workmen, who were all paid by the day, though at varying rates. Uncas, Ashpow, Quocheets, Wyox and other Mohegan names appear among the workmen and crew. “Nick the fiddler” was also one of the “Confederacy people.”

† Cooper in his Naval History says that this disaster occurred east of Bermuda,—which is probably a mistake. Vol. 1, p. 195.

ters, Jeremiah Halsey, Ransford Rose, took part in the contest by cruises at sea, as well as by campaigns on land.

The most extensive shipping firm in Norwich was that of Howland & Coit. Jabez and Hezekiah Perkins were among the earliest cruisers of the war. The latter made a successful voyage to Holland and France in the letter-of-marque sloop *Maria*, of six guns, owned by Howland & Coit. Capt. William Wattles performed several gallant exploits in a small privateer sloop belonging to Norwich, called the *Phenix*. In one of his expeditions he took a brig from Europe, with a valuable cargo, and sold the whole in Carolina before coming home. Unfortunately he was at last taken by the enemy and carried to Halifax, where most of his men languished and died in the terrible Mill-Island prison, victims of close confinement and starvation. At a later period of the war, Capt. Wattles was in command of the privateer *Comet*, and in March, 1782, on a return voyage from the West Indies, was captured a second time by the enemy. He was however soon exchanged, and in July of that year sailed for Amsterdam in "the remarkable fast sailing and every way complete Letter of Marque brigantine *Thetis*." This was a prize vessel, fitted out by Howland & Coit, and sent on a trading voyage to the Texel.

The privateering business was pre-eminently one of uncertainty and hazard; strikingly varied with quick success and sudden reverse. Most of the adventurers from Norwich and New London were captured, imprisoned and exchanged during the war, and some of them more than once; for no sooner were they released from bonds than they were ready for another chance,—acting ever upon the obstinate principle of *up and at them again*.

In the West India trade also, safe and remunerative voyages alternated with loss and capture. This trade resembled the continual running of a blockade. Several of the Norwich ship-masters fell with their craft into the hands of the enemy. Of these we can name Jabez and Hezekiah Perkins, Thomas King, Ebenezer Lester, William Loring, Jabez Lord, and Elisha Lathrop. We get a few gleams of these vicissitudes from old account-books and the weekly newspapers. Capt. Elisha Lathrop was one of those who kept afloat and had a liberal share of both good and bad fortune. In August, 1781, while in the privateer sloop *Mercury*, he was taken and carried into New York. In February, 1782, in a trading voyage to Virginia, he was captured and carried to Charleston, which was then in possession of the enemy. His next voyage was to Guadaloupe, which he accomplished during the summer, and returned in safety Sept. 6th. On the 18th of October he sailed again, and the next announcement respecting him briefly states:

"Capt. Elisha Lathrop in a brig from Norwich, bound to the West Indies, is captured and carried to Bermuda."



A few other scattered marine items belonging to this period may here find a place.

Capt. Davison left the river in a small coasting sloop, Nov. 13, 1781, bound to Boston. In rounding Cape Cod, he was blown off by strong northerly winds, driven out to sea, and after thirty-one days arrived at Guadaloupe; his crew in a famishing state for want of provisions. He encountered upon the ocean neither friend nor foe; sold his sloop well, and returned in a Boston brig.

In April, 1782, Capt. Meech of Preston in a galley from Poquetannock slipped into Fire Island inlet on the Long Island coast, and captured three British coasters, one of which he engaged to ransom for £500; £150 being paid upon the spot and divided among the crew. But before the victors could get away with their spoil, several British galleys appeared off the inlet, retook the prizes, and to prevent the capture of their own galley, the Americans scuttled and sunk her, escaping themselves by land.

The privateer brigs *Young Cromwell* and *Favorite* were principally owned in Norwich, and for three years, from 1779 to 1781, were very successful in their trips, and brought in numerous prizes. The *Cromwell* was successively commanded by Captains Wattles, Hillard, Buddington, Reed, and Cook. She carried ten 3-pounders and thirty-eight men, and with this force captured a tory privateer called the *Success*, which carried eight 4-pounders, one 12-pounder in the bow, and forty-five men. She brought in her last prize Nov. 1, 1781. In her next cruise she was taken and her crew thrown into the New York fatal prison-ship, where seventeen of the number died of pestilential fever. In May, Capt. Cook escaped by dropping himself overboard during the night and swimming to the shore, from whence he made his way home in safety. A few weeks afterward he embarked in the schooner *Turn-of-times* on a trading voyage to Demerara, but was again captured, and carried to Bermuda.

The brig *Favorite* was captured in September, 1781, by the British frigate *Iris*, and sent into New York.

In January, 1782, Capt. Thomas King sailed for the West Indies in a new sloop. On the voyage a tropical storm and a hostile vessel came bearing down upon him at the same time. In striving to escape the enemy he was upset by the hurricane, and his sloop left a total wreck. He and his men were taken off by the British, and carried prisoners to Antigua.

Thomas Mumford was the chief owner of the noted brig *Hancock*, Peter Richards master. This was originally a prize vessel, called by its British owners *The Whim*.

The ship *Fortune*, Henry Billings, commander, was built at Norwich in 1781. She lay at New London, nearly ready to sail "for Hispaniola, France, and a cruise," when the town and shipping were burnt by Arnold. The *Fortune* and a few other vessels escaped up the river.

The following list of prize vessels sold at Norwich by auction during the latter part of the war, is collected from the newspapers of the day:

July, 1779. Ship Otter of 200 tons, and sloop Lord Howe, 30 tons, with their appurtenances and cargoes.

June 12, 1781. Ship Hunter, 200 tons, English built: bought by merchants in Middletown, and immediately fitted at New London for a cruise; she mounted eighteen six-pounders. Brig Pontus, 90 tons, almost new.

July 13. Brig Neptune, built in New Hampshire; recaptured by the Young Cromwell; mounting 14 carriage guns. Brig Society, 150 tons; "well found and a fast sailer."

Aug. 28. Ship Polly, 250 tons. Schooner Hazzard, 60 tons. Schooner Surprise, 70 tons. Schooner Lucy, 40 tons. Schooner Favorite, a Virginia pilot-boat, 20 tons. Brigantine Despatch, 120 tons.

Oct. 4. Ship Achilles, British built, 270 tons. Ship Williamson, 300 tons.

Oct. 30. Brigantine Peggy, captured by the Young Cromwell and the Samson,—British built.

Nov. 22. Letter-of-marque schooner Betsey, 80 tons, Virginia built, "lately captured by the Young Cromwell."

1782, May 23. Sloop Polly, Virginia built, 70 tons; brigantine Alligator, 120 tons, and a small sloop,—all captured by the privateer Randolph.

June 25. Brigantines William, copper-bottomed, 100 tons; Thetis, Virginia built, 100 tons; Catharine and Mary, and a sloop of 30 tons.

An advertisement from the Norwich Packet may be quoted in verification of the statement that the direct intercourse of the Norwich merchants with continental Europe was not wholly intermitted during the war.

"The prime sailing Letter-of-Marque sloop *Maria*, Bermuda-built, mounting six carriage guns, Hezekiah Perkins master, will sail in about three weeks for France or Holland. Any persons desirous of sending bills of exchange on France, may depend on having them negotiated in the best manner. Apply to said Perkins, on board his vessel at New London, or to Howland & Coit in Norwich."—Jan. 25, 1779.



## CHAPTER XXXIII.

ARNOLD, THE TRAITOR. SOLDIERS OF THE REVOLUTION.

### BENEDICT ARNOLD.

BENEDICT ARNOLD was born Jan. 3, 1741. His parents had previously lost a son of the same name, and of their six children, only Benedict and a daughter Hannah lived to maturity.

Benedict Arnold, Sen., and his brother Oliver, were natives of Rhode Island, and coopers by trade, but became seamen, and as each had the title of Captain, it is inferred that they rose to the rank of ship-masters. They appear to have been honest, reputable citizens. Benedict took an interest in public affairs, serving occasionally in town offices, as collector, lister, surveyor, constable, and selectman.

Soon after he came to Norwich, he married (Nov. 8, 1733,) the youthful widow of Absalom King; a woman of pleasing person and estimable character, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Lathrop) Waterman. The inscription upon her grave-stone commemorates his affectionate remembrance of her worth.

In Memory of  
HANNAH  
the well beloved wife of  
Capt. BENEDICT ARNOLD  
and Daughter of  
Mr. John and Mrs. Elizabeth Waterman.  
She was a Pattern of Piety, Patience and Virtue,  
Who died Aug. 15, 1758,  
ætatis suæ 52.

Tradition allows that in this case the epitaph does not exaggerate the truth. "Benedict Arnold's mother," said one who had been connected with the family, "was a saint on earth, and is now a saint in heaven."

The following is a literal copy (except in orthography) of a letter from her to her son Benedict, while he was at school in Canterbury:

To Mr. Benedict Arnold at Canterbury.

NORWICH, April 12, 1754.

Dear child. I received yours of the 1st instant, and was glad to hear that you was well ; pray, my dear, let your first concern be to make your peace with God, as it is of all concerns of the greatest importance.

Keep a steady watch over your thoughts, words and actions. Be dutiful      up-  
eriors, obliging to equals, and affable to inferiors, if any such there be. Always choose  
that your companions be your betters, that by their good examples you may learn.

From your affectionate mother,

HANNAH ARNOLD.

P. S. I have sent you 50s. Your father put in 20 more.—use it prudently, as you are accountable to God and your father. Your father and aunt join with me in love and service to Mr. Cogswell and lady and yourself. Your sister is from home.

It is lamentable to think that the son of such a mother, and the recipient of such wholesome instruction, should have become a proud, obstinate and unprincipled man ; leaving behind him a name and character infamous in the sight of his country, and spotted with violence, corruption and treason.

Capt. Benedict Arnold, the father, died in 1761.

The house in which Benedict was born stood about half way between the older part of the town and Chelsea society. It was demolished in October, 1853, but a few years before was in a good state of preservation, and exhibited in many parts, tokens of the mischievous boyhood of Benedict, in whittlings, brands and hatchet-cuts upon the beams, planks, and doors. The letters B. A. and B. Arnold were stamped upon it in various places. This house had a variety of occupants after the Arnolds left it. It was sold March 31, 1764, by Benedict Arnold of New Haven to Capt. Hugh Ledlie of Windham, (with the home-lot of five and a half acres,) for £700. Capt. Ledlie's wife fell into a state of deplorable insanity, which rendered confinement necessary, and this misfortune with its attendant circumstances, being probably exaggerated by rumor, obtained for the house a notorious and superstitious reputation.

In the year 1775, Dea. William Philips, of Boston, the father of Lieut. Governor Philips, removed his family to Norwich, and occupied the Arnold house till after the British retired from Boston. Its next occupant was Mr. Malbone of Newport, who also came to Norwich to seek a refuge from the bustle and violence of war. The misfortunes of this family and the seclusion in which they lived, rather added to the fearful character which the house had acquired. It was said that seven of the name, and all nearly connected, had died within the short period of eighteen months. About ten years before the family removed to Norwich, that is, in 1767, the brig Dolphin, of Newport, owned by one of the Malbones, and commanded by another, took fire off Point Judith, as it was returning from Jamaica, and was entirely consumed. Such was the violence of the



flames, and the rapidity of their work, that all communication was cut off between the deck and cabin, and in the latter three ladies and two children perished. Those on deck escaped in boats. This, and other misfortunes connected with the family, had made the name almost ominous of calamity. The house was afterwards occupied by Col. Moore from New York, the father of Richard Channing Moore, the revered Bishop of Virginia. The Moore family was large, and their dwelling had the reputation of being the seat of hospitality and festive enjoyment. Col. Moore died at Norwich, June 19, 1784; his remains were removed the next year to New York, and interred in Trinity church-yard.

Two of the sons, John and Benjamin Moore, remained several years longer in Norwich; the latter as a practitioner in physic. In 1790, John Moore was living in the Arnold house, and the census returns show that his family consisted of ten persons. He was then a prominent merchant of the place, but removed about 1793.

The occupants of the Arnold house were so often changed, that public rumor ascribed it to the supernatural sounds and sights with which it was visited. After a short experience, the bewildered residents were glad to escape from the haunted premises. At length it was left tenantless for a short time, and then purchased and repaired by Uriah Tracy, of the firm of Tracy & Coit. The house had now a native occupant: the beams and rafters, the garden and groves, were apparently appeased. The spell was broken. Mr. Tracy remained in possession for a period of forty years,—not, however, without an alarm from the invisible world, though of a different nature from the sights and sounds that had dismayed the former inhabitants. On a warm summer's day, Sept. 2, 1800, a thunderbolt descended upon the house, shattering the windows and the mirrors, and breaking a passage out through the wall. This electric shock was perhaps necessary to purify it thoroughly from the Arnold taint.\*

To return from this digression respecting the Arnold house, to the Arnold family. No one of the name in Norwich seems to have been a common-place character. Benedict, when a boy, was bold, enterprising, ambitious, active as lightning, and with a ready wit always at command. In every kind of sport, especially if mischief was to be perpetrated, he was a dauntless ringleader, and as despotic among the boys as an absolute monarch. On a day of public rejoicing for some success over the French,

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\* Mr. Tracy died in 1832, aged 79. His wife was a daughter of Amos Hallam of New London. She was a woman of quiet, amiable manners, and had been a favorite friend of the unfortunate Nathan Hale, but not, as has been reported, betrothed to him.

The house of Mr. James L. Ripley stands near the site of the Arnold house. The old well and its surroundings have not been altered, but remain as they were in the time of the Arnolds.

Arnold, then a mere stripling, took a field-piece, and in a frolic placed it on end, so that the mouth should point upright, poured into it a large quantity of powder, and actually dropped into the muzzle, *from his hand*, a blazing firebrand. His activity saved him from a scorching, for though the flash streamed up within an inch of his face, he darted back and shouted huzza ! as loud as the best of the company. It is remembered also, that having, at the head of a gang of boys, seized and rolled away some valuable casks from a shop-yard, to aid in making the usual Thanksgiving bonfire, the casks were arrested on their way, by an officer sent by the owner to recover them ; upon which young Arnold was so enraged that he stripped off his coat upon the spot, and *dared* the constable, a stout and grave man, *to fight*.

At fourteen years of age he was apprenticed as a druggist to Doctors Daniel and Joshua Lathrop, and here he exhibited the same rash and fearless traits of character. A person who once remained in the shop with him during a tremendous thunder-storm, related afterwards, that at every peculiarly loud and stunning report, young Arnold would swing his hat and shout hurrah !—adding occasionally some reckless or profane exclamation. Once during his apprenticeship he ran away, with the design of enlisting as a soldier in the British army ; but his friends succeeded in finding him, and induced him to return to his employment.\*

Miss Hannah Arnold, the sister of Benedict, was an accomplished lady, pleasing in her person, witty and affable. While the family still resided in Norwich, and of course when she was quite young, she became an object of interest and attention to a young foreigner, a transient resident of the place. His regard was reciprocated by the young lady ; but Benedict disliked the man, and after vainly endeavoring by milder means to break off the intimacy, he became outrageous, and vowed vengeance upon him if he ever again caught him in the house. After this the young people saw each other only by stealth, the lover timing his visits to the brother's absence. One evening, Benedict, who had been to New Haven, came home unexpectedly, and having entered the house without bustle, ascertained that the Frenchman was in the parlor with his sister. He instantly planted himself in front of the house with a loaded pistol, and commanded a servant to assail the door of the room in which they were, as if he would break it down. The young man, as Arnold expected, leaped out of the window ; the latter fired at him, but it being dark, missed his aim.

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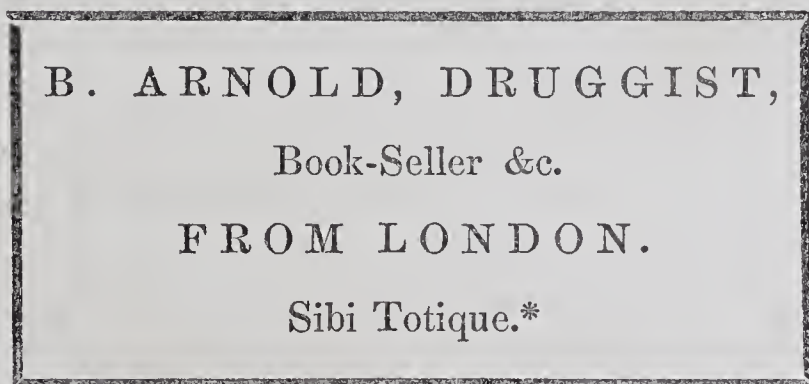
\* Some of the biographers of Arnold have asserted that Dr. Lathrop was so well satisfied with his services that at the close of his apprenticeship he presented him with a bonus of £500. This is a mistake.

In Sparks' Biography of Arnold, it is said that Dr. Lemuel Hopkins was his fellow apprentice ; this also is an error. It was Solomon Smith, and not Hopkins, that served with Arnold in the Lathrop drug-store.



The youth escaped, but the next day left the place, choosing rather to relinquish the lady than to run any further risk of his life. Arnold afterwards met him at the Bay of Honduras, both having gone thither on a trading voyage. A challenge was given by one or the other, and promptly accepted. They fought, and the Frenchman was severely wounded.

After leaving Dr. Lathrop, Arnold engaged in trade, and made several voyages to the West Indies as supercargo of a vessel in which he was interested. He went also to London, and returning with an assortment of drugs, books, and other goods, established himself in the retail business at New Haven. The sign of his shop was found some years since in the garret of the house where he lived, and has been lodged in the museum of the city. It is painted black, lettered in white, and has both sides alike.



At New Haven he married a Miss Mansfield, a lady of good family, young, interesting, and accomplished, and as far as is known, his first love. He had, however, been a general favorite of the ladies, fond of their society, and floating in the gayest circles of the day. His wife died before the Revolution broke out, or about that time, leaving three children, all sons.

His sister, Miss Hannah Arnold, never married. She resided with her brother, and her attachment to him remained unshaken through all his reverses and disgrace. She was doubtless convinced that in breaking off her intercourse with the French stranger, he had been influenced by a regard to her interest and happiness. After the treason and exile of her brother, she had charge of his younger sons, and they found in her a faithful guide and friend. She died in 1803, at Montague, in Upper Canada.

Arnold from his youth was a popular leader in martial exercises. He had attained the rank of captain in the militia, and when the news came of the battle at Lexington, he was one of the first in New Haven to arrange his business, gird on the sword, and hasten to Boston to offer his services to the country.

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\* "For himself and for all." The first part, *for himself*, is pointedly appropriate. The motto has been rendered by a free translation, *Wholly for himself*.

His character in private life, as sketched by tradition in the place of his birth,—ostentatious, reckless, insincere and self-seeking, impetuous in act, and exaggerative in speech,—is vividly exemplified in a familiar note to Mrs. General Knox, which by some chance has been preserved. It was written before his second marriage, at a time when his proud aspirations were gratified by the favor with which he was received in fashionable circles.

WATERTOWN, 4 March, 1777.

Dear Madam: I have taken the liberty of Inclosing A Letter for the Heavenly Miss Deblois, which beg the favor of your delivering, with the Trunk of Gowns &c., which Mrs. Colburn promis'd me to Send to your House. I hope she will make no objections against receiveing them. I made no doubt you will soon have the pleasure seeing the Charming Mrs. Emery, and have it in your power to give me some favourable Intelligence. I shall remain Under the most Anxious Suspence untill I have the favour of a line from you, who (if I may Judge) will from your own experience, conceive the fond Anxiety, the Glowing hopes, and Chilling fears, that alternately possess the breast of

Dear Madame,

Your Obed't & most

Mrs. Knox, }  
Boston. }

Humble Serv't,

B. ARNOLD.

It should excite but little surprise that an ambitious, extravagant man, with fiery passions and very little balance of moral principle, should betray his friends and plunge desperately into treason. In this case it might almost have been expected and foreseen. Yet the dark shades in Arnold's character have doubtless been exaggerated, and the sum of his misdeeds needlessly enlarged. For instance, it has often been said that at the burning of New London, he accepted the hospitality of a lady, who, trusting to a former friendly acquaintance with him, ventured to remain in the invaded town, and that he ordered the flaming torch to be applied to the premises as he rose from the dinner-table. No such incident is known to have occurred. Arnold dined that day with some old shipping friends of tory proclivities, no lady being present, and though the house was afterwards burnt, it was by the spread of the flames from other quarters, and not by Arnold's order.

Benedict Arnold died at Brampton, England, June 20, 1801, aged 60. His second wife was Margaret, daughter of Edward Shippen, Chief Justice of Pennsylvania. She survived her husband, and died in London, Aug. 24, 1804, aged 44.

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*Capt. Oliver Arnold*, of Norwich, the uncle of Benedict, died in 1781. He had long been an invalid, and left his family with but little for their support. To these relatives Benedict was always liberal, and even after



his exile, made them occasional remittances. The oldest son, Freegift, he assisted in obtaining a good classical education, and designed him for one of the professions; but the young man joined himself to the Sons of Liberty, entered into the naval service, under Paul Jones, and after fighting bravely, came home with a ruined constitution, to languish and die. The other son, Oliver, had a peculiar talent for making extemporaneous rhymes, which seemed to flow from him without premeditation, in all the ease of common speech, so that his casual remarks and answers to questions would often run in a jingling measure. Many of these familiar rhymes were formerly current in the neighborhood. They were mostly of a local and transient character. An example of more general interest, which has been often quoted, is the following.

In a bookseller's shop in New Haven, Oliver Arnold was introduced to Joel Barlow, who had just then acquired considerable notoriety by the publication of an altered edition of Watts' Psalms and Hymns. Barlow asked for a specimen of his talent; upon which the wandering poet immediately repeated the following stanza:

“You've proved yourself a sinful cre'tur';  
You've murdered Watts, and spoilt the metre;  
You've tried the Word of God to alter,  
And for your pains deserve a halter.”

Oliver was also a sailor and a patriot, and cordially despised the course taken by his cousin Benedict, in betraying his country.

In his habits he was roving and unsettled, absenting himself from home in long and vagrant rambles, from one of which he never returned. According to report, he was found dead by the wayside on a road little frequented, in the northern part of New York.

Three daughters of Capt. Oliver Arnold, sisters of Freegift and Oliver the rhymester, died aged, but unmarried, the last of the family in Norwich. The brothers Benedict and Oliver, with their wives, and six children of the former and four of the latter, were interred near the center of the old burial-lot, but mostly without inscribed grave-stones.

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#### GEN. JABEZ HUNTINGTON.

The Committee or Council of Safety, appointed to aid the Governor in the recess of the Assembly, entered upon its duties in May, 1775. It consisted at first of nine persons, of whom three were Huntingtons from Norwich, viz., Hon. Jabez Huntington, an assistant, or member of the upper house; Samuel Huntington, Judge of the Superior Court for New London county; and Benjamin Huntington, Esq., a prominent lawyer, and then representative from Norwich. At the same time, another Jabez

Huntington was sheriff of Windham county, and another Benjamin Huntington was the town clerk in Norwich.

Gen. Jabez Huntington was the son of Joshua, who has been heretofore mentioned as the first considerable merchant of Norwich, and the only one of his sons that left any posterity. He was born Aug. 2, 1719. His mother was Hannah, daughter of Jabez Perkins. He graduated at Yale College in 1741, and soon afterward entered largely into commercial pursuits, securing a handsome fortune, principally by trade with the West Indies.

He commenced his patriotic career in 1750, when he was chosen to the Colonial Assembly. For several years he presided over the lower house as speaker, and afterwards was a member of the council. On the breaking out of the Revolutionary war, he lost nearly half of his property, either by capture of his vessels, or from other circumstances connected with that calamitous period.

In the early part of the war, he was an active member of the Council of Safety, one of the two Major-Generals of the militia, and after the death of General Wooster in May, 1777, he was appointed sole Major-General of the State forces. This was an arduous position, demanding wisdom, integrity, and a mind fertile in expedients and resources. It required his constant attention, and although Gen. Huntington never took the field himself, in actual service, yet the exertions he made for his country, connected with the exciting events of the day, and the pressure of private business, destroyed his health. He was obliged to retire from public affairs in 1779, and the last seven years of his life were passed under the gloomy shadow of real and imaginary suffering, mental and bodily. He died Oct 5, 1786.

Gen. Huntington's first wife was Elizabeth Backus, sister of the Rev. Isaac Backus of Middleborough, Mass. His second wife was Hannah, daughter of Rev. Ebenezer Williams of Pomfret. He had five sons and two daughters,—the latter happily connected in marriage with Col. John Chester of Wethersfield, and Rev. Joseph Strong, colleague and successor of Dr. Lord in Norwich. His five sons settled around him, establishing their homesteads in his immediate vicinity; though shortly after the death of his father, the oldest of them, Gen. Jedidiah, removed to New London.\*

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\* The house built by Jedidiah in 1780, was subsequently the residence of his brother Ebenezer. The other houses of the Huntington group are more ancient. One was the inherited homestead of the family. The next oldest was erected before 1740. The fine elms in its front were set out by Zachariah Huntington, who died in 1761. Joshua Huntington, his son Zachariah, his grandson Andrew, and the late Wolcott Huntington, comprising four generations, have successively occupied and died in this house.



## GEN. JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON

Was born at Norwich in 1743, and graduated at Cambridge in 1763, on which occasion he pronounced the first English oration delivered in that college at commencement. Settling near his father in his native place, he engaged with him in mercantile pursuits, but soon became noted as one of the Sons of Liberty, and an active captain of the militia. He entered with spirit into all the measures of his townsmen in resisting oppression, and soon after the skirmish at Lexington, marched to Boston with seventy men, where he remained for most of the season on duty. He was afterwards appointed Colonel of the 8th Connecticut regiment, which was raised and drilled under his orders. This regiment was the best equipped of any in the colony, and was distinguished by a British uniform, the Governor and Council having appropriated to them a quantity of English red-coats taken in a prize vessel. John Douglas of Plainfield was lieutenant-colonel.

In the summer of 1776, Col. Huntington's regiment was stationed with the main army in the vicinity of New York. In the battle of Long Island, Aug. 27th, his men fought with desperate bravery. After the action, six captains, six lieutenants, twenty-one sergeants, two drummers, and 126 rank and file, were missing.\* Those who were taken prisoners endured great hardships, and few ever returned to their homes, most of them dying in the noted sugar-house and prison-ship at New York, of disease and starvation.

In 1777, Col. Huntington was advanced to the post of Brigadier-General, which office he held during the war, and at the close of it received the appointment of Major-General.

After the war, he was constantly employed in civil affairs. On the decease of Prosper Wetmore, high sheriff of New London county, in 1788, he was appointed his successor, and the same year had the office of State Treasurer conferred upon him. The manner in which this latter appointment was announced in the papers, gives a rather pompous list of his honors:

“Major General Huntington Esq. Vice President of the order of Cincinnati, High Sheriff for the county of New London, Judge of Probate for the district of Norwich, first Alderman of the city of Norwich, one of the Representatives of the town in the State Legislature, and one of the State Electors, is now appointed by the General Assembly Treasurer for the State of Connecticut.”

Most of these offices were soon relinquished for a new appointment. Upon the organization of the custom-house system, under the Federal

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\* Hinman's Records of Rev. War, p. 89.

government, Connecticut was arranged into three districts, New London, New Haven, and Fairfield. To the first of these districts, which included the commerce of Connecticut river and of the coast from thence eastwardly to Rhode Island, Gen. Huntington was appointed collector. He removed to New London, and entered on the duties of his office August 11, 1789. From that time till his decease, almost thirty years, New London was his home. He held the office under four successive Presidents, and died Sept. 25, 1818, aged 75. Agreeably to a direction contained in his will, his remains, which before the will was opened had been deposited in New London, were disinterred, carried to Norwich, and laid in the family tomb.

Gen. Huntington was a man of small stature and sedate temperament, but of great energy, steadiness, and dignity; very neat and precise in his personal appearance, and polished, though reserved, in his demeanor. He made a profession of religion at the age of twenty-three, and his conduct through life was that of a consistent Christian. He was a man of prayer, active in the promotion of religious objects, liberal in his charities, and a zealous friend of missions. He was one of the first members of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, and continued active in its concerns till his death. His last will commences with these words, "My soul has long been consecrated to my Creator, Redeemer and Comforter."

General Huntington was twice married. His first wife was Faith, the oldest daughter of the first Governor Trumbull. She died Nov. 24, 1775, leaving an only child, the late Jabez Huntington, Esq., President of the Norwich Bank. By his second wife, Ann, daughter of Thomas Moore, he had seven children.

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*Andrew Huntington*, the second son of Gen. Jabez, served during the earlier stages of the war as an agent or commissary to provide clothing, arms and food for Connecticut regiments. He was afterwards engaged in merchandise and the manufacture of paper.

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*Joshua*, the third son of Gen. Jabez, threw himself into the volunteer ranks at the first boom of the Lexington alarm, and served as a soldier at the siege of Boston, and during the campaign of 1776 in New York and New Jersey. He was subsequently employed in the commissary department. In the later years of the war he was the agent of Wadsworth & Carter of Hartford in supplying the French army at Newport with provisions. He had also the charge of all prizes sent by the French navy to Connecticut, consigned to their agents, Wadsworth & Carter. His military rank at the close of the war was that of colonel.



In 1789, he was appointed county sheriff, and retained the office till his death in 1821.

Col. Huntington had but one child, a daughter, who married Hon. Frederick Wolcott of Litchfield.

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GEN. EBENEZER HUNTINGTON.

Ebenezer, the fourth son of Gen. Jabez, was a member of Yale College, and within two months of completing his course when the battle of Bunker Hill was fought. He and other ardent young patriots of his class asked permission of President Daggett to leave the institution and enlist as volunteers in the army that was gathering at Boston. Being refused, they decamped in the night, hastened to Wethersfield, where there was a recruiting station, enrolled their names, and were soon on duty at the heights of Dorchester.

Mr. Huntington was at first threatened by the College faculty with the loss of his degree, but ultimately, as he was under no previous censure, he was allowed to graduate with his class in 1775.

In the army he rose by successive promotions to the rank of colonel, and took part in several of the most remarkable contests of the war. After his commission as captain of a company in October, 1776, he lived with the army, and was ever at his post in camp and field, losing no time in long furloughs for rest and recreation. Subsequent to the evacuation of New York, his regiment was stationed on the Hudson, at Fort Lee, Tarrytown, and Tappan Bay. In 1778 he was sent in command of a battalion to Rhode Island to operate against the British, who then held possession of Newport. He afterwards joined the main army and participated in several severe engagements with the enemy. At the siege of Yorktown, he served a part of the time as volunteer aid to Gen. Lincoln, and in that capacity witnessed the magnificent spectacle of the surrender of Cornwallis to the soldiers of liberty.\* He remained on duty with the army till the troops were disbanded, having served through the whole war from April, 1775, to May, 1783.

General Huntington retired from the army to the peaceful pursuits of merchandize. But his experience and tact in military evolutions and discipline made it desirable that he should be retained in the home service. In 1792 he was appointed Major-General of the militia of the State, an office which he held more than thirty years, under six successive Governors.

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\* In Trumbull's historical picture of the surrender of Cornwallis, Gen. Huntington is represented in the group of American officers, his portrait having been taken by the artist from life.

In 1799 he was appointed by President Adams, at the recommendation of General Washington, a Brigadier-General in the United States army, raised upon the apprehension of a war with France. In 1810, and again in 1817, he was elected member of Congress. He died June 17, 1834, in the 80th year of his age.

General Huntington was noted for his fine manly form, and military deportment. He was twice married. His first wife was Sarah Isham of Colchester; his second, Mary Lucretia, daughter of Gen. Samuel McClellan of Woodstock.

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*Zachariah*, the fifth son of Gen. Jabez Huntington, was too young to take part in the Revolutionary contest, but he attained a high rank in the militia, and was endowed by nature with many soldier-like qualities,—a commanding person, a voice of great compass, firmness of purpose, and habits of great precision and accuracy.

It is seldom that five such distinguished men as the brothers Huntington appear in one family, all living to an age ranging from seventy to eighty-six years.

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#### JOSEPH TRUMBULL, *Commissary*.

When the war commenced, Norwich had on her roll of inhabitants no one of fairer promise or of more zealous devotion to the cause of liberty than Joseph Trumbull. He was the oldest son of Governor Trumbull, and born at Lebanon, March 11, 1737, but had been for twelve or fifteen years a resident in Norwich, taking an active part in the business, the municipal affairs and patriotic proceedings of the town. In 1775, he was appointed the first Commissary-General of the American army, an important and honorable office, but bringing with it a crushing weight of perplexity, labor, and responsibility. He devoted himself with unremitting ardor to his duties, and was soon worn out by them. In July, 1778, he came from Philadelphia with a desponding heart and a broken constitution. His father and other friends gathered around him, and after a few days of rest, he was carefully removed from his home in Norwich to his father's house in Lebanon, where he died July 23d, aged 42.

The hopes of his friends, who expected much from his talents and integrity, and whose affections were fondly fixed upon his person, were blasted by his untimely death. In the eulogy pronounced at his funeral, great praise is awarded to his abilities, his patriotism, and his moral worth, and it is added, "In all the winning and agreeable arts of life, he had no superior." These qualities account for the tender attachment of his friends, and the lamentations that were uttered on his death.



## COL. JOHN DURKEE.

Could the life of this able and valiant soldier be written in detail, it would form a work of uncommon interest. Only the outlines can now be recovered, but they are of a nature that indicates a career full of adventure and a character deeply imbued with patriotic resolution. He was an actor in the French and Indian wars, in the stamp-act excitement, in the Wyoming settlement and conflict with the Pennamites, and in many of the stirring scenes of the Revolution.

John Durkee was a native of Windham, but settled early in life at Norwich. He served upon the frontier, against the French, in several distinct expeditions, and afterwards held the rank of major in the militia. He kept an inn, cultivated a farm, and was often engaged in public business. After the repeal of the stamp-act, he became interested in the purchase made by the Susquehannah Company in Pennsylvania, and was one of the forty pioneers sent out by the company in 1769, to take possession of the Wyoming Valley. Robert Durkee was also of the company, and the first fortress erected by these emigrants was called Fort Durkee.

Against this scanty band of settlers, the Pennamites or Pennsylvania claimants of the valley soon appeared in considerable force, and an obstinate contest for the possession of the territory ensued. Major Durkee was at one time carried to Philadelphia as a prisoner, but when released, returned to the scene of conflict. After a long and stormy experience, the Connecticut party so far prevailed as to keep possession of their settlements.

Wilkesbarre—a name compounded from those of John Wilkes and Col. Barré, English politicians who had warmly espoused the American cause in the days of the stamp-act—was one of the towns founded by the Connecticut emigrants. As Durkee had been a strenuous partizan on the side defended by these English orators, and was a leader of high authority in the Connecticut party, it is quite probable that the town is indebted for its name to his suggestion and influence.\*

Major Durkee afterwards returned to Norwich, and the trouble with England deepening and gradually overshadowing the land, he relinquished the idea of removing to the western wilderness. His brother Robert remained at Wyoming,† and was subsequently one of the victims of Indian barbarity in the fearful slaughter of July 3, 1778. His name is on the commemorative monument in the Wyoming Valley.

Major Durkee was promoted to the command of a regiment, and took part in the battles of Long Island, Harlem Heights, White Plains, Tren-

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\* One of the nephews of Major Durkee had the given name of Barré.

† They were cousins and brothers-in-law. Robert's wife was sister to Col. John.

ton, and Monmouth. He was also with Gen. Sullivan in the expedition against the Six Nations. But his health gradually failed, and in 1780 he resigned his command, and was succeeded by Lieut. Col. Thomas Grosvenor of Pomfret.

He died before the return of peace, May 29, 1782, in his 54th year. One of his sons, a youthful volunteer, aged 17 years, died in 1777, of wounds received in fighting for his country.\*

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*Col. Benjamin Throop* was another gallant officer who served in the regular army. He enlisted as first lieutenant in April, 1775; was promoted by successive steps to the rank of colonel, and continued in the service to the end of the war.

*Col. Zabdiel Rogers*, of the State militia, was often called out during the war. In 1775, his regiment was sent with others from the State to the city of New York. It was afterwards several times ordered to the western border line of Connecticut. In 1781 he was on duty at Rye and Horseneck.

The brothers *Christopher and Benajah Leffingwell*, belonging to the State militia, were often summoned to the sea-coast upon an alarm of invasion, or to take a turn in manning the forts and batteries. In 1777, Benajah Leffingwell, then captain of a company, performed a tour of duty in Rhode Island.

Christopher Leffingwell was an early and active member of the committee of correspondence, and eminently useful in rousing the spirit of the people, and in devising ways and means by which the common cause might be benefited.

He was a grandson of the second Thomas Leffingwell of Norwich, and died Nov. 27, 1810, aged 76 years. His life through its whole length was active, useful, and prosperous. It falls to the lot of few men in private life to benefit a community so largely as Norwich was profited by the enterprise of Col. Leffingwell.

*Capt. David Nevins* enlisted early in the contest for liberty, and lived long to witness its happy results. He was first employed as the confidential messenger of the Norwich committee of correspondence, one of those voluntary patriotic agencies that managed the whole business of the Revolution in its earlier stages. His personal activity and daring spirit, com-

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\* Out of twenty recruits that enlisted from Norwich in the company of Capt. Nathaniel Webb of Windham, (Durkee's regiment,) from 1776 to 1778, engaging to serve during the war, only *four* were over 20 years of age, Webb's Orderly Book.



bined with trustworthiness and ardent participation in the popular cause, peculiarly fitted him for the work. But the battle of Lexington carried him from all minor employments into the army. He joined the 8th company, 6th regiment, which was organized on Norwich Green in May, 1775, and was its color-bearer on Dorchester Heights.

He remained with the army during the siege of Boston, the occupation of New York, and the retreat through the Jerseys, returning home in the winter of 1777. He did not, however, relinquish the service of his country, but was several times again in the field upon various emergencies during the war.

Capt. Nevins was born at Canterbury, Sept. 12, 1747, and died in New York, Jan. 21, 1838, aged 90. He had twelve children. The late Henry Nevins of Norwich, Russell H. and Rufus L. Nevins, brokers of New York, Samuel, James and Richard Nevins of Philadelphia, and Rev. William Nevins, installed pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Baltimore in 1820, were his sons. His wife was Mary, oldest daughter of Russell Hubbard.\*

*Capt. Jedidiah Hyde*, son of the Separatist minister, born in 1738, left his farm and family—a wife and eight children—to enlist among the first recruits in the cause of liberty. After the war he removed to Vermont, and about the year 1788 established himself at Hyde Park in that State, which place derives its name from him. He died in 1825. By two wives he had fifteen children, all of whom lived to enter the married state, and became heads of families.

*Capt. James Hyde*, of Bean Hill, who married Martha Nevins, and *Capt. James Hyde*, of the West Farms, whose wife was Eunice Backus, were both engaged in the Revolutionary contest; the former on the land, and the latter on the sea. Capt. Hyde of the army was a man noted for his gentleness and philanthropy, yet he enlisted early, fought bravely, and served to the end of the war. Great must have been the hatred of British tyranny, that moved such a spirit to rush into the battle-field. He was afterward a Methodist local preacher.

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\* The mother of Capt. Nevins was a daughter of Col. Simon Lathrop, who fought at Louisburg in 1745. His father, whose name he perpetuated, was supposed to be of Scotch origin, but came from Massachusetts to Connecticut, married Mary Lathrop, and settled in Canterbury on a farm of 300 acres given her by her father. About ten years after his marriage, he was accidentally drowned in the Quinebaug river, as elsewhere in this work related.

He left five children: Capt. David, above mentioned; Samuel and Betsey, who died unmarried; Mary, who married Nathan Lord of Lord's Bridge, Lisbon; and Martha, wife of Capt. James Hyde of Norwich.

*Capt. Jared Tracy* served as a commissary during the siege of Boston, and subsequently fought the enemy upon the sea. After the war he went into the West India trade, and died at Demarara in 1790. William G. Tracy, an early and prominent settler at Whitestown, New York, was his son.

*Capt. Simeon Huntington* commanded a company in Col. Huntington's regiment, and served through the first two campaigns of the war. He was a man of bold, adventurous spirit, and had taken a conspicuous part in resistance to the stamp act. He died in 1817, aged 77.

*Capt. Elisha Prior*, of Norwich, was in the garrison at Fort Griswold when it was stormed by the British, and received a severe wound. He died at Sag Harbor, Long Island, in 1817.

*Lieut. Andrew Griswold*, of Durkee's regiment, was wounded at the battle of Germantown by a ball in the knee, and made a cripple for life. He lay for ten months in the hospital at Reading, Penn., and was afterward only able to perform light service in camp and fortress. But he still clung to the army, and when the war closed, was at West Point. He died at Norwich in 1827, at the age of 72.

*Capt. Richard Lamb*, a native of Leicester, Mass., served during most of the war in the Connecticut militia, and was stationed at Danbury, and at Fishkill, N. Y. He belonged to a company of artificers, and recruited for this company at Norwich in September, 1777. After the conclusion of the war, he came to Norwich, married the sister of Lieut. Andrew Griswold, and became a permanent inhabitant of the place. He died in 1810.

*Capt. Andrew Lathrop* commanded a company in 1776, and was on duty in New York.

The brothers *Asa* and *Arunah Waterman* took an active part in the war as soldiers, agents, and commissaries.

Captains *Asa Kingsbury* and *Ebenezer Hartshorn*, *John Ellis* and *Joshua Barker*, all of the West Farms, were in the service for longer or shorter periods.

*Ebenezer* and *Simon Perkins*, not brothers, but both of the Newent family, were Revolutionary captains.

*Lieut. Nathaniel Kirtland*, of Newent, was killed in battle Oct. 12, 1777.



*Lieut. Charles Fanning* has been already mentioned, but merits a more emphatic notice. He was an ensign of the 4th Connecticut battalion in 1776, was often referred to as one of the town's quota during the war, and is on the roll of continental officers that served till the army was disbanded.

It would be a pleasing task to register the names and memorials of all those old soldiers and patriots of Norwich to whom later generations are so much indebted; but after the most diligent gleaning, only a few individuals can be named. The town covered a large area. It furnished a throng of volunteers at the opening of the war, and its regular quota afterwards. But we have no muster-roll of the men, and respecting many of the officers nothing is recovered beyond a casual reference in the relation of incidental matters, or the record of a death.\*

The highest honor belongs to those who served during the whole war. The following have an undoubted claim to this distinction, as various public records and returns show that half-pay during life, and bounty lands, were awarded to them by the government on that account.

Rev. John Ellis, chaplain.

Brig. Gen. Jedidiah Huntington.

Lieut. Col. Ebenezer Huntington.

Major Benjamin Throop.

Lieut. Charles Fanning.

“ James Hyde.

“ Andrew Griswold.

“ Silas Goodell.

“ Jacob Kingsbury.†

Preston was so near to Norwich, and its military companies were so often united with those of the latter, that the names of its prominent officers slide easily into our history. Colonels John Tyler and Samuel Mott, Majors Nathan Peters, Jeremiah Halsey and Edward Mott, Capts. Samuel Capron and Jacob Meech, were some of the patriots and soldiers from that town who breasted the first waters of the Revolution, and were often afterwards in the field during the war.

Major Peters enlisted as an ensign in the company of Capt. Edward Mott, immediately after the battle of Lexington, and soon rose to the rank of captain. In 1777 he was appointed brigade-major in the Rhode Island campaign under General Tyler, and performed several other tours of detached service during the war.

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\* One of the last lingering soldiers of the old war, in the town plot, was Joshua Yeomans, who died Aug. 8, 1835, aged 83.

† Saffel's Records of Rev. War.

Happening to be at home on furlough in September, 1781, when the British made a descent upon New London, with characteristic ardor he rushed to the scene of action, and was the first person who entered Groton Fort after it had been deserted and a train laid for its destruction by the British troops. Hovering in the vicinity, he scarcely waited for them to leave the premises before he cautiously entered the fort, and with water from the pump extinguished the train which had been laid to cause an explosion of the magazine. In five minutes more the whole would have been a heap of ruins, under which the dead and dying would have been buried.

Major Peters died in 1824, aged 79.

Dr. Philip Turner of Norwich merits an honorable notice, as a surgeon of the Revolutionary period. He entered the Provincial army in 1758, when only twenty years of age, as an assistant surgeon, and served upon the northern frontier, against the French. He lost none of his patriotic ardor in after life, but offered his services to his country in 1775, and was with the army at Roxbury and in the arduous campaigns in New York and Pennsylvania. As a hospital surgeon, no man in the country stood before him. Gen. Jedidiah Huntington said of him:

“Doctor Turner is blessed with a natural insight into wounds and a dexterity in treating them peculiar to himself.”

He retired from the service in 1778, returning to his former miscellaneous duties as a druggist, physician and surgeon. His skill as a surgical operator was so well understood that he was often summoned to manage critical cases, not only from points far back in the country, but from New York and Philadelphia.

In the year 1800 he removed to New York, where he had charge of the government hospitals, and there died in 1815.



## CHAPTER XXXIV.

INOCULATION. DIVISION OF THE TOWN. REVIEW OF WEST FARMS, PAUTIPAUG, NEW CONCORD, NEWENT, HANOVER, AND LONG SOCIETIES.

THE eight societies into which the area of Norwich was divided, in the main drew well together, being usually harmonious in opinion on all the great questions of morality, liberty, and the public good. The violent disputes which at various periods have agitated the town, although sometimes sectional, have more frequently resulted from clashing interests in regard to property, privilege, and partizanship.

In 1760, a conflict was begun with respect to inoculation for the small pox, which came very near being interminable. Individuals had been agitating the question for many years, and it was now proposed to the town in this form, viz.: Will the town approve of Dr. Elisha Lord's proceeding to inoculate for the small pox, under any regulations whatever? The vote was in the negative. The subject was resumed again and again, with the same result. The popular feeling was excited almost to violence whenever the faculty brought up the question.

In 1773, Dr. Philip Turner and Dr. Jonathan Loomis opened a hospital for inoculation on an island in the Sound, off Stonington, but the inhabitants on the main-land strenuously opposing the system, and the hostility deepening, they were obliged to relinquish even this island project. In August, 1774, Dr. Loomis was arrested and committed to prison on the charge of having communicated the infection of small pox by inoculation to two persons in Stonington. He escaped from his cell after a few days confinement, and the Norwich jail-keeper, Sims Edgerton, advertised him and offered a reward for his apprehension, as would have been done in the case of a notorious criminal.

Dr. Elisha Tracy also, though well known in this part of the colony, for an honorable and skillful physician, was presented by the grand-jury as guilty of a cognizable offence in communicating the small pox to certain individuals by inoculation, and held to answer for the same before the county court in a bond of £60. These facts suffice to show the ignorance, prejudice and fierce excitement with which the great discovery of Jenner was greeted in this district.

Early in 1787, Drs. Elihu Marvin and Philemon Tracy made an effort to obtain permission to open a hospital somewhere in the purlieus of the town, to be under the control of the selectmen, but this was negatived in the ratio of two to one. A second effort was made the same year, with a result overwhelming in discouragement,—eight against them to one in their favor.

These energetic physicians, though foiled in their application to the town authorities, persevered in their great object. They secured a beautiful and retired situation on the bank of the river, in that part of the Mohegan reservation known as Massapeag, and another on the Adgate farm, both in the town of Montville, and at length brought their theory into successful practice: Jeremiah Rogers and David H. Jewett of Montville being their associates.

The tide had begun to turn, and in 1792 a special town meeting was warned to consider the subject, under the expectation that a vote would be obtained to permit inoculation within the limits of the town. This hope was disappointed; the opposition was vehement; a majority were in favor of the motion, but the law required two-thirds of the voices present, and it was lost,—yeas 56, nays 35. The conflict continued three years longer.

At a town meeting on the 8th of October, 1795, a full vote was given, granting liberty to Drs. Tracy and James W. Whiting to open a hospital for inoculation the following April, in such place and subject to such regulations as the civil authority should deem proper. Accordingly, the next year, the house of John Allen, within a mile of the court-house, was occupied as a hospital, by permission of the selectmen, and after this there was no controversy on the subject.

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#### *Division of the Town.*

The division of the town took place in 1786. This was accomplished in the most amicable manner, by mutual consultation and concurrence.

A town meeting was convened, and drafts of two memorials to the General Assembly were presented: one by Nathaniel Kingsbury, asking that the three parishes of West Farms, New Concord and Pautipaug might be made a distinct town; and the other by Joseph Perkins, that Newent, Hanover and a part of Long Society might be made a distinct town. Against the first only one vote was given, and against the other not a single voice was raised. The representatives of the town were directed to lay the two memorials before the Assembly, and to state the amicable manner in which the affair had been managed.

The General Committee appointed on the division consisted of four



persons, viz., Capt. Ebenezer Baldwin, Deacon Joseph Bushnell, Samuel Leffingwell, and Capt. Andrew Perkins. The repeated consultations of this committee with committees of the various societies, resulted in the formation of four towns instead of three. First Society and Chelsea, to constitute the town of Norwich; Hanover and Newent, another town; West and Eighth Societies, a third; and New Concord a town by itself.

East Society was to be annexed to Preston,—the middle waters of the Thames, Shetucket and Quinebaug constituting the eastern boundary-line of Norwich.

These proceedings were readily sanctioned by the Legislature, and the three new towns incorporated at the May session the same year, under the names of Lisbon, Franklin, and Bozrah.

The old town continued to convene once a year, to settle accounts and adjust claims, until 1791, when they had their last meeting.

In 1861, the town of Sprague, comprising a part of Lisbon and Franklin, was incorporated, and as the western part of both Preston and Griswold originally belonged to Norwich, there are now five whole towns and parts of two others within the limits of the nine-miles-square.

The division of the town was undoubtedly a wise and salutary measure. But an historian who has hitherto considered the nine-miles-square as a beautiful whole, can not but sigh to see the integrity of his province destroyed, and may be allowed to linger awhile over those relinquished societies which will henceforward have a distinct history of their own.

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*Second Society: West Farms, or Franklin.*

The settlements in this society were almost coeval with those in the town-plot. Farms were here laid out to the first proprietors, and passed into the hands of their sons, who became actual residents. Hence the names of Lathrop, Hyde, Abel, Birchard, Tracy, Edgerton, Huntington, Waterman, are the earliest in Franklin.

But with the next generation new names are introduced. Armstrong, Hartshorn, Hazen, Johnson, Kingsbury, Ladd, Marshall, Metcalf, Rudd, and others, appear before 1700, or soon after that period. The enlarged population and thriving condition of this part of the township in a short time rendered a separate ecclesiastical organization both desirable and easy of accomplishment. A plea for it was presented to the town authorities in 1710, but after conference on the subject it was then deferred. In 1716 we find this brief record of the division:

“The West-farmers are freely allowed to become a Society.”

The church was organized Jan. 4, 1718, with eight members, viz.,

Henry Willes, David Hartshorn, Joseph Kingsbury, Sen., Joseph Kingsbury, Jr., Nathaniel Rudd, Thomas Hazen, Samuel Edgerton, and Samuel Ladd. Mr. Willes was ordained pastor of the church, Oct. 8th of the same year; David Hartshorn and Joseph Kingsbury, Sen., were chosen deacons.

Before the ordination took place, a house of worship was erected on Meeting-house Hill, 40 feet by 35, and 18 feet between joints. The frame of the edifice grew upon the hill, but the interior paneling, with "the pulpit, seats and canopee," were relics of the old church in the town-plot.

In 1721 this church was favored with a great revival, which raised the number of members to sixty-eight, the whole population of the society not then exceeding 400 persons. A halcyon period followed; but in 1745 the society became involved in a controversy, long and obstinate, which seems to have originated in a difference of opinion with respect to a new house of worship—where it should stand, how it should be built, and what should be its form and size.

The meeting-house was built, square and stately, on the site of the old one, but the troubled waters were not assuaged. A portion of the congregation withdrew, and in 1749 Mr. Willes was dismissed, after a ministry of thirty-one years. He never settled elsewhere or changed his residence, but still continued to preach occasionally, and died in his old home, Sept. 9, 1758, aged 68.\*

His successor in office, Mr. John Ellis, a native of Cambridge, Mass., was ordained Sept. 6, 1753, in the face of a strong opposition, not arising from personal dislike of the candidate, but a deep settled aversion to the ecclesiastical laws of the colony in regard to building meeting-houses and supporting ministers,—a dissent that led to a still further disruption of the society.

On the first organization of Col. Jedidiah Huntington's patriotic regiment in 1776, Mr. Ellis was appointed its chaplain, and with the consent of his people went immediately into the army. In 1779, having decided to remain in the field, he asked and obtained a dismissal from his charge at home, and continued in the service as chaplain till peace was established and the army disbanded. His name is on the roll of those who were entitled to half-pay during life, as having served to the end of the war,†—a rare if not a solitary instance of a chaplain who continued on duty in camp and field through the seven years of conflict.

No church records are to be found of the ministry of Mr. Ellis,—an

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\* Mr. Willes was a native of Windham, and graduated at Yale in 1715. His wife was Martha, daughter of John Kirtland of Saybrook. She survived him, and died in 1773. They had nine children.

† Saffel's Records of Rev. War, p. 418.



interval occurring of thirty-three years in which there is neither registry of admissions, baptisms, marriages, or death.

In 1785, Mr. Ellis was installed over a church at Rehoboth, but at the end of ten years resigned his charge, and returned to Franklin, where he died Oct. 19, 1805, in the 79th year of his age.\*

Rev. Samuel Nott, the third minister of West Farms, was ordained March 13, 1782. The church then consisted of 72 members: 35 males and 37 females. His pastorate was of seventy years duration, and he performed its duties almost to the end. In him a feeble and sickly youth was gradually hardened into executive health and drawn out into a comfortable if not vigorous old age. This was in great part due to the life-sustaining energy of an ever-active but equable flow of the mental faculties, and a natural cheeriness of disposition.

Dr. Nott was born at Saybrook, Jan. 23, 1754, and died at Franklin, May 26, 1852, wanting four months of being 98. In a sermon preached on the 60th anniversary of his ordination, he stated that he had not during his pastorate been detained from his duties by indisposition but eleven Sabbaths, and five of these were in consequence of a slight injury upon his right hand.

"My hand and life (he says) were for some time in great danger. The Rev. William Woodbridge, a classmate and very particular friend, preached for me four Sabbaths, and on the fifth lay dead in my house, being suddenly called to give an account of his stewardship."

The Rev. Mr. McEwen, in his funeral sermon on the death of Dr. Nott, said of him:

"Until his 94th year his venerable form was always seen among his assembled brethren, and in their discussions and services unto that age he stood manfully in his lot."

The ministry of the first three pastors of Franklin extended over a period of 134 years, including two vacant intervals of three years each.

Rev. Samuel Nott of Franklin, and Rev. Eliphalet Nott, D. D., of Union College, Schenectady, were brothers, and sons of Stephen Nott of Saybrook, who was a descendant of John Nott, one of the first settlers of Wethersfield. Their mother was Deborah Selden of Lyme.

Rev. George J. Harrison was ordained colleague with Dr. Nott, March 13, 1849, and on Dr. Nott's death, became sole pastor. He was dismissed at his own request, in October, 1851. His successor, after a short interval, was Rev. Jared R. Avery.

The present pastor is Rev. Franklin C. Jones, a son of Rev. E. C. Jones of Southbury, Ct. He was ordained Feb. 5, 1863.

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\* "He has no memorial to tell future generations where his body lies." Nott's Half Century Sermon.

The meeting-house erected in 1745 stood upon the same elevated site occupied by its predecessor, commanding an extensive prospect of woodlands and cultivated farms. For a hundred years it crowned and beautified the hill, its altar-fires never going out until a third house of worship was prepared to continue the sacred services at the same place.

A choice old picture is treasured in the memory of those who can recall to mind this ancient church and its surroundings as it appeared on the Sabbath in the days of the venerable Dr. Nott. Horses and vehicles of various sorts are assembled on the hill-top. Inside of the church all is sombre, plain and antique. The house is square, and the pews are square. There is an entrance in front and at either end, with aisles leading from each and crossing at the center. The pulpit is at the side. The pew-frames and gallery fronts resemble lace bobbins. The sound-board, bearing in large figures the date of 1745, the pulpit and pulpit-window are carved and painted in colors. The pulpit cushions are of gray velvet, with heavy black tassels, and when the wind comes in through the broken casements, they wave like a hearse pall. One must have seen it filled with its varied congregation, and surmounted with the thin and pallid face of its venerable pastor, and have heard his tremulous voice uttering the customary strains of exhortation and warning, in order to obtain the most striking impression of a country congregation of the genuine old Puritan stamp.

But ninety years is an extended date for the old wooden structures of America, and in 1836 this primitive church gave place to a third sacred edifice built on the same site. This also was abandoned and removed in 1863,—a fourth church, in the modern style of architecture, having been completed near by, in a less bleak position, somewhat lower upon the hill. It is a neat and graceful building, calculated for an audience of about 300 people, and furnished with the first church-bell ever sounded on that ancient hill. A parsonage was the same year erected on the site that had been occupied by three successive sanctuaries of the society.

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#### *Pautipaug, or Eighth Society.*

The small company that broke away from the West Farms church between 1745 and 1750, formed a new organization, and in 1758 settled the Rev. Mr. Ives as their pastor. The society was not incorporated and legally accepted as a society until after the formation of the Seventh or Hanover Society, and therefore ranked as the Eighth, although a church upon the platform recognized by the government was established here earlier than at Hanover. These ecclesiastical societies were the districts, or legal subdivisions of towns in Connecticut, in its earlier days, when the



people were all of one sect. The existence of other denominations renders them obsolete.

Mr. Ives removed to Munson, Mass. in 1770, and the history of the church sinks into oblivion. It does not appear that they had any other pastor, nor do we find any account of what became of the church or congregation.

The Separatists organized a church in this society in 1747, and Thomas Denison was ordained as its pastor. It became extinct in about twelve years.

In the early part of the present century, a free church was erected here by the voluntary contributions of individuals. Not only were the seats free, but the pulpit was open for all denominations of Christians to occupy. It was, however, generally improved by the Methodists. It is now disused, and the bell has been transferred to the Congregational church.

When the two societies of West Farms and Pautipaug were united to form a town, the proposition to give it the name of Franklin is believed to have originated with Jacob Kingsbury, Esq. This gentleman was Inspector-General in the army of the United States, and served his country faithfully both in the army and navy for a period of forty years. He was a descendant of Deacon Joseph Kingsbury, one of the first pillars of the West Farms church. At the commencement of the Revolution, he repaired to Roxbury, and entered the army as a volunteer, being then only eighteen years of age. He continued in the service until the close of the second war with the British, in 1815. He was a member of the old society of the Cincinnati. His death took place at Franklin, in 1837; he was then eighty-one years of age. One of his descendants, Lieut. Charles E. Kingsbury, a youth of eighteen, died at Fort Mellon, in East Florida, eleven days before him. So near together fall the green tree and the dry.

Franklin was for a long period nearly stationary in its population,—or rather, gradually decreasing from the effects of emigration. It was devoted to farming, and had no considerable village, and no manufacturing establishment except a woollen factory on Beaver Brook. The extent of the town was about five miles by four.

## POPULATION.

1810—1161.	1840—1000.	1860—2358.
1830—1194.	1850— 895.	

Between 1856 and 1860, the village of Baltic sprung up like magic in the eastern part of Franklin, and has expanded into the flourishing town of Sprague. This new organization took off the north-eastern part of Franklin, assumed one-half of the town debt, and the charge of all the

poor, save one. A census was taken of the town after the separation, which gave the following result: 763 inhabitants, 178 electors, and 157 families.

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*New Concord, or Fourth Society.*

The fourth ecclesiastical society was recognized by the Legislature in 1733. Permission had been given to the planters to form a parish by themselves in 1715, but being unable to support a minister, they were not regularly organized until eighteen years afterward, when they took the name of New-Concord, and were released from all obligation to support the ministry of the First Society, on condition of maintaining a gospel minister at least six months in the year.

The northern part of the present town,—that part which lies in the bend of the Yantic,—was included in the West Farms parish, and the bounds between the two societies were to be: *the river, the brook that runs out of it, the Cranberry Pond, the Cranberry Pond brook, the great swamp, the dark swamp, and the miry swamp.* It might be difficult at the present day to run the line from these data.

The church was organized and Rev. Benjamin Throop ordained the first pastor, Jan. 3, 1738–9. Mr. Throop was a native of Lebanon, and a graduate of Yale. He died Sept. 16, 1785, after an efficient pastorate of forty-six years, aged seventy-four. He left behind him the reputation of a scholar and a gentleman; seasoning all his speech with a divine relish, yet genial, social, always diffusing good-humor, always thirsting for information, and ever ready to impart knowledge from his ample stores to others. Such gems seem to diffuse a brighter lustre when set in sober and secluded scenes.

When Mr. Throop died, New-Concord was a parish in Norwich, but before another year had revolved it was an incorporated town by the name of Bozrah.

It is not easy to determine why this quiet rural township should have been made the namesake of the haughty, woe-denounced and desolate city of Edom,—a name in singular contrast with its ancient peaceful and friendly cognomen of New-Concord. The Syrian Bozrah lay in the open plain, but this was eminently a woodland district amid the hills. The current story that the name originated in a jocose but irreverent application of Isaiah 63:1, to the agent of the society, who, when he appeared in the town meeting to plead for the separation, was conspicuous for his parti-colored garments, can not be seriously admitted. A pleasantry might have been thus perpetuated, but not a profanity.

It is possible that the name was suggested by Mr. Throop on account



of the original meaning of the word, which, according to Hebrician students, signifies *a sheep-fold*. This, with some latitude of application, might be given to a farming town, or it might refer spiritually to an ecclesiastical parish.

In one point of view, the designation was happily chosen. While most of our names, in defiance of taste and utility, have been repeated from county to county, and from state to state, causing embarrassment and confusion, and leading to innumerable mistakes, our pleasant Bozrah as yet stands alone in the Gazetteers of the new world. There is scarcely another *only one* to be found in the country, unless it be of Indian origin.

The committee to manage the separation of the town in 1786 consisted of Benjamin Throop, Nehemiah Waterman, Esq., Asa Woodworth, and Jabez Hough. Its first representative was Capt. Isaac Huntington.

Bozrah is four and a half miles long, and about four in breadth. Like other parts of the nine-miles-square, it consists of a succession of hills and valleys, some of them rocky and barren, others fair and fertile. "The Woody Vales of Bozrah!" has been a familiar phrase in the vicinity, from its having been the chorus of a poem written by one of Bozrah's sentimental daughters.

The second minister of the church was Rev. Jonathan Murdock, a native of Westbrook, and previously settled at Rye, N. Y. He was installed at Bozrah, Oct. 12, 1786, and died Jan. 16, 1813, aged sixty-eight.

John Bates Murdock, a son of this excellent clergyman, graduated at Yale College in 1808, but afterward entered the army, and served during the war of 1812-15; at the close of which he had the rank of brevet major. He died soon after the conclusion of peace, unmarried.

Rev. Dr. James Murdock of New Haven, Professor of Ecclesiastical History, and the translator of the Syriac Testament into English, was a nephew of the Bozrah minister.

The third minister of Bozrah, Rev. David Austin, was installed May 9, 1815. The old meeting-house where Throop and Murdock preached was then standing, but that same year a new house of worship was completed.\* Mr. Austin's dedication sermon was published.

Rev. David Austin was a native of New Haven, born in 1760, and fitted by an accomplished education and foreign travel to become an ornament to society, as well as by ardent piety and a lively and florid eloquence to be useful in the ministry. He married Lydia, daughter of Dr. Joshua Lathrop of Norwich, and settled as pastor of the church in Eliza-

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\* The old church stood where is now the house of Rev. N. S. Hunt. The second was built about eight rods distant. The present church, which is the third sacred edifice of the parish, owes its erection chiefly to the liberal aid afforded by the late Col Asa Fitch and his family.

bethtown in 1788. The kindness of his heart and the suavity of his manner endeared him to all who knew him, while his zeal in the performance of his duties, and his popular pulpit talents, made him successful in his office, and extensively known as a preacher. It is to him that Gov. Livingston alludes in the following lines of his poem on *Philosophic Solitude*:

“Dear A\*\*\*\*\* too should grace my rural seat,  
Forever welcome to the green retreat;  
Heaven for the cause of righteousness designed  
His florid genius and capacious mind.  
Oft have I seen him 'mid the adoring throng,  
Celestial truths devolving from his tongue;  
Oft o'er the listening audience seen him stand,  
Divinely speak, and graceful wave his hand.”

Mr. Austin was naturally eccentric, and had always something erratic and extravagant in his manner of thinking, speaking, and acting. Unhappily his mind was led to investigate, too deeply for its strength, the prophecies; his ardent imagination became inflamed, his benevolent heart dilated to overflowing, and his mental powers became partially deranged. He now appeared as a champion of the Second Advent doctrine, and held that the coming of Christ to commence his personal reign on earth would be on the fourth Sabbath of May, 1796. On the morning of that day he was in a state of great agitation, and one or two reports of distant thunder excited him almost to frenzy. But the day passed over as usual; yet the disappointment did not cure the delusion of Mr. Austin's mind. He took the vow of a Nazarite, and went round the country announcing the near approach of Christ's coming, and calling upon the Jews to assemble and make preparations to return to their own land.

In 1797, he was removed by the Presbytery from his pastoral relation to the church at Elizabethtown. He then went to New Haven, where he erected several large houses and a wharf, for the use of the Jews, whom he invited to assemble there, and embark for the Holy Land. Having at last, in this and other plans, expended an ample fortune, he was for a while imprisoned for debt, and after being released from confinement, gradually became calm and sane upon all points except the prophecies. He had no children, and his wife had long before taken refuge in her father's house in Norwich. He also returned to this home, after all his wanderings, like the dove to the ark, and the balance of his mind being in a great measure restored, he began again to preach with acceptance in various churches in Connecticut. After his installation in Bozrah, he performed all the duties of a pastor, faithfully proclaiming the gospel of salvation for a period of fifteen years. He died in Norwich, Feb. 5, 1831.



For elegance of manners, for brilliancy of conversation, for fervor of worship, for a large heart and a liberal hand, few men could surpass Mr. Austin. The darkness that obscured his intellect on many points, and which was never wholly removed, appeared not to impair in the least those prominent traits, that lay deep and shone through, to illustrate his character, and to win for him the love and admiration of all who came within his sphere.

Since the decease of Mr. Austin, the following persons have served, each for several years, as pastor of the church :

Rev. John W. Salter.

Rev. William M. Birchard.

Rev. N. S. Hunt.

Mr. Birchard is the only one of these that has been regularly settled. He was installed and continued in office from April, 1842, to October, 1848.

Since April 1, 1858, Mr. Hunt has been retained as the acting pastor of the society. He had previously been settled at Abington and at Preston, officiating about ten years at each place.

Two other churches within the limits of Bozrah have been organized in part by members from this older church of New-Concord: viz., at Bozrahville, April 10, 1828; and at Fitchville, Dec. 1, 1854.\* The Baptists and Methodists have each also a house for worship and a religious organization in Bozrah, making five worshiping assemblies in the town.

Population of Bozrah :

In 1840—1067.

1850— 867.

1860—1217.

We can not close this sketch of Bozrah without adverting to the improvements that have been effected in a portion of the town since 1832, by wealth, energy and perseverance under the control of Asa Fitch, Esq. The taste and efficiency that have converted an ancient seat of iron-works and a rugged farming district into the village of Fitchville with its large agricultural area, its mansion house beautifully embowered and skirted with landscape beauty, its symmetrical well-built church, its cotton-mill, its lines of heavy stone wall, and its two miles of graded road, prepared for a railway, command our unqualified admiration.

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\* The society at Bozrahville, though destitute of a settled pastor, has kept steadily together and manifested a commendable zeal and perseverance in sustaining the Sabbath service. For a few years past they have been chiefly dependent on the ministrations of Rev. George Cryer, of the Methodist denomination.

Fitchville occupies the site of the old Huntington Iron-works, established by Nehemiah Huntington and Capt. Joshua Abel in 1750. In its native condition this was a wild and gloomy district, with deep valleys and precipitous ledges; the pasture-land harsh and stony, and the woodlands rugged and forbidding.

The mill, the church, the village, the mansion house with its superb floral adornments and umbrageous walks, are now the central treasures of a domain extending two or three miles on all sides. The old farms of Fitch, Huntington, Abel, Gillson, Waterman, Chapman, Baldwin, and others, are consolidated under one proprietor, who devotes his time, his energetic business habits and abundant resources to the improvement of his possessions; being himself the originator of his plans, the director, overseer and paymaster of the whole.

No part of the nine-miles-square has a stronger claim to notice in our history, than Fitchville. It is not only a striking example of what may be done by persevering enterprise in softening the sterile and homely features of nature into productiveness and beauty, but it furnishes a pleasing link to connect our reminiscences with the founders of the town.

The present proprietor, from whom the village derives its name, is a descendant through both parents from the Rev. Mr. Fitch, the first minister of Norwich, of whose parish this was a part. The Abells and Huntingtons, the first owners of the land, were members of the church and congregation of Norwich town-plot.\*

The house of worship built by Mr. Fitch was dedicated Aug. 4, 1852. A church was organized Dec. 1, 1854, while the Rev. William Aitcheson was the officiating minister. It has had no settled pastor, but temporary ministers have been provided, by the liberality of Mr. Fitch, with an exception during the late war, when, the operations of the mill having ceased, the services were intermitted, and the church closed for three or four years.

Beneath the church edifice is the Fitch Cemetery, to which place the remains of Col. Asa Fitch and of various members of his family have been removed.

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\* Col. Asa Fitch, the proprietor of the old iron-works at this place, was a man of marked character, full of energy and decision. In the Revolutionary war, whenever an alarm was sounded that the enemy were threatening the Connecticut coast, he was almost invariably the first of his company to shoulder the musket and start for the scene of action.

He died August 19, 1844, aged 89 years and six months. He was a son of Stephen Fitch, of the Lebanon line of descent from the Rev. James. His wife Susanna was a daughter of Benajah Fitch, of East Norwich, or Long Society.





— 4th St. — Maine & C. N.Y.  
*From an Original Painting by A.H. Emons.*

*A. H. Emons*





*Newent, or Third Society.*

The ecclesiastical society in this place was organized in 1723, the town having previously appropriated sixty acres of land for the use of the first minister that should settle there. The affairs of the society were entirely under the control of the Perkins family, as appears from the following entry :

Jan. 17, 1720. In town meeting ordered, that if the Perkinses at their return from Boston, do not bring with them a minister to preach in the crotch of the river, or satisfy the selectmen they shall have one speedily, the rate-makers shall put them into the minister's rates.

The church was constituted and Rev. Daniel Kirtland ordained its minister, Dec. 10, 1723. The original members were Daniel Kirtland, the pastor, Samuel Lathrop and Joseph Perkins, who were chosen deacons, John Bishop, Jeremiah Tracy, (son of Thomas Tracy of Preston,) Isaac Lawrence, and Isaac Lawrence, Jr.—the church resting upon seven pillars, a favorite number in that day.\*

The church agreed to profess discipline according to the Cambridge Platform. They professed to believe "that all organized church acts proceeded after the manner of a mixed administration, and could not be consummated without the consent of both elders and brotherhood." In this they agreed with the two older societies of Norwich.

Before the formation of this church, the inhabitants between the rivers had been accustomed to attend meeting at the town-plot, the distance for some of them being about eight miles. The older people went on horseback, the women on pillions behind the men, but the young people often traveled the whole distance, going and returning, on foot.†

Church-going in former days was a serious and earnest duty. None stayed away from the house of worship, that could by extremest effort get there. On horseback or on foot, over wearisome roads, or through lonely by-paths that shortened the distance, they came with their households to obtain a portion of the truth. "Many a time," says Rev. Levi Nelson, "while passing over the society, has my attention been arrested to notice the paths, now given up, where they used to make their rugged way to the house of God, almost as surely as the holy Sabbath returned."

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\* Though frequent instances occur in our New England annals, of churches formed with this precise number, showing that there was a kindly leaning towards it, yet it was not invariable, nor held to be of great moment. The smallest number embodied into church estate in this vicinity, was undoubtedly the church of North Groton, now Ledyard, which was organized Dec. 12, 1810, with *one* main pillar, viz., Capt. Robert Allyn, and four females. Capt. Allyn was then upward of 80 years of age.

See Half-Century Sermon of Rev. Timothy Tuttle.

† Half-Century Sermon of Rev. Levi Nelson.

And when there, how intently and with what eagerness to profit they listened. "To this day," says the same reverend author, "I love to think of their appearance in the house of God, of the seats they occupied, and of their significant motions to express their approbation of the truth."

The new society took the name of Newent, undoubtedly at the suggestion of the brothers Perkins, and according to tradition, in remembrance of a place of that name in Gloucestershire, England, from whence the family came.

The meeting-house was probably built immediately after the church was gathered.

1723. Sixty acres of land granted by the town to the Society in the crotch of the rivers for the first minister that shall settle there.

The same to be given to the Society over the Shetucket for their first minister.

Jan. 4, 1725-6. The proprietors grant that spot of land the Newent meeting house now stands upon and ye common land adjoining to it to that Society for their use so long as they shall have occasion for it.

JOSEPH TRACY, Moderator.

Lieut. Jabez Hyde.

Thomas Adgate.

Deacon Christopher Huntington.

Joseph Backus.

Capt. Benajah Bushnell.

Richard Hyde.

The site of this building was about half a mile south of the present sacred edifice, and continued to be used until about 1770.\*

The church has still in good preservation a large folio volume of the works of Baxter, sent as a present in former years from England. It was placed on Sundays upon the desk below the pulpit, and those who stayed between the services gathered around upon the nearest seats, and one of them read aloud for the edification of the others.†

The inhabitants of Newent, in a petition to the General Court, October session, 1727, state that they had been afflicted with a distressing sickness for two successive years, especially in summer. In 1726, every family but one was smitten, and about twenty persons died in three months. In the summer of 1727, every family with no exception felt the scourge, and one-sixth of the male heads of families died. The farmers could not secure their crops, and though kindly assisted by people from other parishes, they lost some of their grain and much of their hay.

Rev. Daniel Kirkland (or Kirtland) was a native of Saybrook, born in 1701, and graduated at Yale College in 1720. His ministry in Newent was of nearly thirty years duration. He was a man of scholastic habits and high aspirations, but of sensitive organization. His failing health led

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\* "It stood where Mr. Daniel Hatch's house now is." Nelson's Half-Century Sermon, 1854.

† Ibid.



to his dismissal from the pastorate in 1752. Recovering partially, he was installed at Groton in 1755, but after two years of service he again broke down, and returning to his old home in Norwich, there remained till his death, which occurred in May, 1773.

Mr. Kirkland had ten or twelve children. His second son, John, born Nov. 15, 1735, was one of the first settlers of Norwich, Mass. Another son, Samuel, born Dec. 1, 1741, is well known as the Oneida Missionary, one of the most energetic, faithful, and self-denying men born within the limits of the old town of Norwich.

Mr. Peter Powers was ordained the second minister of Newent, Dec. 2, 1756. He remained in charge seven or eight years, and then was dismissed at his own request, on account of the insufficiency of his salary. Mr. Powers was a man of marked character, earnest and energetic in action. From Newent he went immediately into the settlements then making in the Coos or Cohos country on Connecticut river, and organized a church in Haverhill, consisting of members from both sides of the river, that is, from Haverhill, N. H., and Newbury, Vt., over which he was installed Feb. 27, 1765, preaching his own installation sermon. Here he was accustomed to meet his appointments and make his parochial visits in a canoe, rowing himself up and down the stream,—an easier mode of traveling, probably, than that of mounting a horse and stumbling over half-cleared pathways, as in his former parish at Newent.

Mr. Powers died at Deer Island, Maine, in 1799.\*

The church at Newent, being left without a pastor, gradually declined, and for several years gave but feeble signs of life. Something like a reorganization took place in 1770; several of the Separatists returned to their old places, and Mr. Joel Benedict, a man of fine classical attainments, was ordained pastor of the church Feb. 21, 1771. He continued with them eleven years, when an infirm state of health, and the old difficulty, want of adequate support, dissolved the connection, and he was dismissed April 30, 1782.

Dr. Benedict afterwards settled in Plainfield, and acquired a distinguished reputation as a Hebrew scholar. Hebrew, he said, was *the language of angels*. He died at Plainfield in 1816.

In June, 1790, Mr. David Hale of Coventry was ordained. He was the brother of the accomplished and chivalrous Capt. Nathan Hale, who was executed as a spy on Long Island, by order of Sir William Howe. Mr. Hale was a man of very gentle and winning manners, of exalted piety, and a fine scholar. He carried his idea of disinterested benevolence to such an extent, that if acted upon, it would overturn all social institutions. He thought it to be a man's duty to love his neighbor, not

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\* For many interesting particulars respecting Mr. Peter Powers, see History of Coos County, by Rev. Grant Powers.

only *as* himself, with the same kind of love, but also to the *same degree*, so that he should not prefer, even in thought, that a contingent calamity, such as the *burning of a house*, or the *loss of a child*, should fall on his neighbor rather than on himself. Mr. Hale supplied the deficiencies of his salary by keeping a boarding-school. As an instructor, he was popular; his house was filled with pupils from all parts of the county, but ill-health and a constitutional depression of spirits obliged him to resign this employment, and eventually his pastoral office. His mind and nerves were of that delicate and sensitive temperament, which can not long endure the rude shock of earthly scenes. He was dismissed in April, 1803, returned to Coventry, and there died in 1822. David Hale, so well known as proprietor and editor of the *Journal of Commerce*, was his son.

These four ministers of Newent were all men of more than common attainments, and each was distinguished by peculiar and prominent traits of character. Neither of them died as minister of the parish. The four pastorates covered respectively twenty-nine, eight, eleven and thirteen years, with intervals between of four, seven and eight years.

Rev. Levi Nelson, a native of Milford, Mass., the fifth pastor, ordained Dec. 5, 1804, was a man of great simplicity of character and purity of life. It was often said of him that he never had an enemy.

He preached his half-century sermon in 1854. Only one\* of the thirty-eight members who received him as their pastor in 1804, was then living; but of the ordination choir, four were present and united in singing again the same hymns that formed a part of the original service. The old Kirtland church was then extant, seated in decaying dignity upon gently rising ground, with its barrack-like row of sheds spread out at the side like wings. The outside of the edifice had been covered and re-covered, as the *wear and tear* of years demanded, but no tool or painter's brush, under pretence of improvement or repair, had invaded the interior since it was first completed. The impression produced on the mind upon entering, was that of homely, stern solemnity. The pulpit was high and contracted, with a sounding-board frowning over it, and a seat for the deacons in front of it, below. The pews were square, with high partitions; the galleries spacious, with certain seats more elevated than others for the tything-men or supervisors of behavior. This venerable structure is believed to be the last specimen of the old New England sanctuary that lingered in the nine-miles-square. It was demolished when about eighty-eight years of age, and its place supplied by a new church, dedicated Sept. 15, 1858.

In 1843, the Newent church comprised 150 members, spread over a wide range in the southern part of Lisbon, but two Methodist churches

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\* Mrs. L. Hommedieu, of Norwich.



have since been formed in that vicinity, and Congregational influence has declined.

Rev. David Breed, Mr. Nelson's successor, was dismissed in 1862, and they have since had no settled pastor.

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*Note on the Perkins Family.*

Jacob Perkins, born in England in 1624, came to this country at seven years of age, with his father John. He died at Ipswich, Jan. 29, 1700. Joseph and Jabez Perkins, so closely connected with the early history of Norwich, were his sons. They came to the place young and unmarried, and seated themselves for life in a part of the town where the woods were yet unthinned and the soil unmellowed by cultivation.

Joseph Perkins married May 22, 1700, Martha, daughter of Joseph Morgan of Preston. He died Sept. 6, 1726. Eleven out of the thirteen children recorded to him were then living. The inventory of his estate was £2,787, and included three farms, viz., the homestead of 310 acres, and two others comprising nearly 1000 acres. This is but a specimen of the large landed estates of early proprietors. Dr. Perkins left a special legacy to his son Joseph, of "money to carry him through college." This Joseph Perkins, 2d, acquired and maintained through life the respect and confidence of the community, as a skillful surgeon and physician, and an active, judicious citizen. He was also a faithful deacon of the church, as his father had been before him.

Dr. Joseph Perkins was the first of three generations of M. D.'s of the same name, in direct descent, each an oldest son, and all practicing in their native township. He was the father also of Dr. Elisha Perkins of Plainfield, and of Andrew Perkins, Esq., of Norwich Landing.

The third Dr. Joseph Perkins, whose wife was Joanna Burnham, was the father of Major Joseph Perkins of Norwich, of Benjamin Perkins of Camden, S. C., and of the twin brothers, Elias and Elijah, the former of New London, and the latter a physician in Philadelphia.

Dr. Elisha Perkins of Plainfield was the celebrated inventor of the metallic Tractors. This was a method of curing diseases by rubbing the patient in a certain manner with small pointed pieces of metal, steel, or brass, which were thought to extract the pain by a kind of magnetism.

Dr. Perkins was a man of great purity of character, skillful and indefatigable in his profession, with great kindness of heart, and that winning cordiality of manner which secures the ardent attachment of friends. Such was the vigor of his constitution and his physical activity that he regarded a ride on horseback of sixty miles a day as only pleasurable exercise that gave him no sensible fatigue.

Hon. Calvin Goddard said of Dr. Perkins, "I believe there are few men in the world more public-spirited, more hospitable, and more free from all guile, than Dr. Perkins. Whether the tractors are valuable or not, I have never doubted that the doctor fully believed in their efficacy."

Dr. Perkins conceived that powerful antiseptics, used in the first stages of the yellow fever, would conquer the disease. Impelled by a profound conviction of duty, he resolved to go to New York while the disorder was prevailing there, and test the value of the theory. He went, but unfortunately took the infection, and died Sept. 6, 1799.

Dr. Perkins was the father of the late Henry B. Perkins of Salem, Ct., and of Rev. George Perkins, who died at Norwich in 1852.

Dr. Elisha H. Perkins of Baltimore is his grandson.

Jabez Perkins, the other Perkins founder of Newent, married June 30, 1698, Hannah, daughter of Samuel Lathrop, who died in 1721, and he was united the next year to Charity Leonard of Middlebury. He had a son Jabez by each wife. His will recognizes ten children and the heirs of his oldest son Jabez deceased. He was the ancestor of Capt. Erastus Perkins of Norwich, of Col. Simeon Perkins of Liverpool, Nova Scotia, (the grandfather of J. Newton Perkins of Norwich,) and of the brothers Francis A. and George L. Perkins of Norwich.

The above-named Simeon Perkins removed to Liverpool, N. S., in May, 1762, and remained thenceforward a loyal subject of the British crown. In the course of a long life he sustained with ability and popularity the various offices of justice, judge of probate, town clerk, chief justice of the county courts, and colonel commandant of the militia. He was also member of the Provincial House of Representatives for nearly thirty years. The inscription on his grave-stone at Liverpool states that he was born at Norwich, Ct., Feb. 24, 1735, and died at Liverpool May 9, 1812. After his death a tablet was framed and suspended in the court-room where he had presided, containing an inscription of grateful respect, dedicated to his memory

“By the Justices in Session.”

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#### *Seventh Society, or Hanover.*

This was incorporated as an ecclesiastical society in 1761. It included a small portion of Canterbury and Windham. A fund of £1400 was raised by subscription for the support of the ministry, and a church of fourteen members gathered May 13, 1766, under the temporary ministry of Rev. Timothy Stone. A house for worship was erected about the same time. Rev. Andrew Lee, the first pastor, was ordained October 26, 1768, and continued in office, fulfilling its duties without special assistance, for sixty-two years. In 1830, the Rev. Barnabas Phinney became his colleague. Dr. Lee died Aug. 25, 1832, aged 87. Mr. Phinney was dismissed the November following.

Dr. Lee was a man of generous impulses, candid and liberal in sentiment. Mr. Nelson, his friend and neighbor, said of him, “He was made originally on a noble scale, and his faculties were finely developed by careful and diligent culture.”\* He published a volume of sermons, and various separate discourses, which display vigorous thought and nice discrimination. He was, however, deficient in pulpit oratory, his delivery being heavy and monotonous.

He was a son of John Lee, of Lyme, and born in 1745. His mother was Abigail Tully. Though a graduate of Yale College, he received the degree of S. T. D. from Harvard.

Since the dismissal of Mr. Phinney, the church has had the following pastors:

Rev. Philo Judson, installed June 6, 1833; dismissed in December, 1834.

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\* Sprague's Am. Pulpit, p. 671.



Rev. Joseph Ayer, installed in September, 1837; dismissed in June, 1848.

Rev. James A. Hazen, installed in December, 1852; died Oct. 29, 1862, aged 49.

## POPULATION OF LISBON.

1800—1158	1840—1052
1810—1128	1850— 938
1830—1161	1860—1262

The new town of Sprague takes away the north-west part of Lisbon, leaving the old town only one hundred and fifty voters and a grand list of about \$200,000.

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*Sprague.* This town in the rapidity of its growth resembles the changes that often take place in western clearings. Lord's bridge, where the Shetucket was spanned to unite Lisbon and Franklin, and near which the Lord family had dwelt in quiet agricultural pursuits for more than a century,—father, son and grandson living and dying on the spot,—was a secluded nook, without any foreshadowing of progress, or visible germ of enterprise. A grist-mill, a saw-mill,—coevals of the first planters,—a respectable farm-house, with its sign-post promising entertainment, (the usual appendage of a bridge,) and two or three smaller tenements, constituted the hamlet. Only the casual floods and the romantic wildness of the river banks interfered with the changeless repose of the scene.

Suddenly the blasting of rocks and the roar of machinery commenced; hills were upset, channels were dug, the river tortured out of its willfulness, and amid mountainous heaps of cotton-bags the rural scene disappeared, and Baltic village leaped into existence. In the course of five years, more than a hundred buildings, comprising neat and comfortable houses, several shops, a church, and a school-house, grouped around the largest mill on the western continent, had taken possession of the scene: the whole spreading like wings each side of the river, and linking together two distinct towns.

These changes commenced in July, 1856, when the elder Governor Sprague of Rhode Island purchased 300 acres of land on the Shetucket, and laid the foundation of the great cotton-mill. In October of that year the projector and proprietor of this grand enterprise was removed from his work by sudden death, and it was feared that his magnificent schemes would never be realized. But his son and nephews continued the work without intermission, filling out his plans, and even enlarging the sphere of operation, till Lord's bridge became the site of a mammoth factory and the center of a new town.

The great mill is 954 feet long, 68 feet wide, and five stories high. The motive power is furnished by six water-wheels, each over thirty feet in diameter. In 1864, more than 1800 looms had been put in operation, and 1400 persons were employed by the company.\*

In 1861, the new town was incorporated by the name of Sprague. It comprises about twelve square miles of territory taken from Lisbon and Franklin, the Shetucket running through it from north to south. It is intersected also by the Hartford, Providence and Fishkill Railroad, which gives it the advantage of direct and easy transportation. Within its bounds, besides the villages built up by the Spragues, it includes the greater part of Hanover society and the Eagleville manufacturing village on the east side of Lovett's bridge. At Hanover center, and on Beaver brook, woollen factories have been in operation for many years. Sprague is therefore pre-eminently a collection of mill villages.

The first town-meeting in Sprague was held June 10, 1861, and this was celebrated as the birth-day of the town. Col. Ethan Allen of Hanover, moderator of the meeting, was chosen the first selectman. The mileage, as fixed by the Legislature, is 62 miles to New Haven, and 38 to Hartford.

Lovett's bridge and Lovett's grist-mills are old familiar names originally belonging to Norwich. After the name of Lovett passed away, the fine mill situation in this neighborhood became the seat of the Tarbox cotton-factory. In 1852, the place was purchased by Mr. John Batchelder and his associates, and the old mill being soon afterward destroyed by fire, a large brick building was erected on the site and devoted to the manufacture of seamless cotton bagging. Before the war, this mill gave employment to seventy or eighty persons, men, women, and children. It has since been purchased by a new company, the building enlarged, the machinery changed, and the whole transformed into a woollen-mill, under the agency of the Messrs. King, late of the firm of Wm. Elting & Co., Norwich.

This place is now within the limits of *Sprague*, and is the seat of the *Lisbon* post-office, but is currently known as *Eagleville*.†

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\* At the present time (1865), preparations are making for the erection of a new mill by the side of the other, of sufficient capacity for 3000 looms.

† This name is said to have been suggested by the lighting of an eagle upon the cupola or summit of the belfry, just before the mill was completed, which the workmen hailed as a favorable omen, and named the place in honor of the royal bird. There is, however, another factory in the eastern part of the State, called Eagleville, and it is proposed to give to this village the name of Buckingham.



*Fifth or Long Society, sometimes called East Norwich.*

This ecclesiastical society comprised a long and comparatively narrow strip, lying east of the rivers Shetucket and Thames. Well might it be called *Long*, for it originally extended over the whole eastern border of the nine-miles-square, from Plainfield to Poquetannock, and this line of the original purchase, in its liberal measurement, was probably ten or twelve miles.

The farmers on this side of the rivers petitioned the town as early as 1699, to be released from paying ecclesiastical rates in Norwich, on account of the great inconvenience they found in attending divine worship, by reason of the ferry and their distance from the town-plot. After crossing the river at the old fording-place, it was necessary to traverse a tedious winding path around the Chelsea hills, to get into the town street, and pass on to the meeting-house. The desired permission was not then granted, but twenty-one years later they were freely allowed to become a distinct parish, and sixty acres of land set apart for their first minister.

The church was constituted in 1726, under the Rev. Jabez Wight, the first and only pastor ever settled among them. Mr. Wight was a native of Dedham, Mass., and a graduate of Harvard College. His wife was Ruth Swan; they had four sons, who became worthy members of society. He died in 1782, and the church seems to have died with him. No regular public worship was held, and the meeting-house was allowed to decay and fall to pieces.

In 1786, Long Society was annexed to Preston, and instead of the designation *5th of Norwich*, took that of *2d of Preston*.

In the year 1817, a fresh attempt was made to establish a worshipping assembly in this old society. A new meeting-house was built upon the ancient site, which was opened to all denominations of Christians. The services were kept up for a time on the system of voluntary contributions, but could not be permanently maintained, and soon ceased altogether.

In August, 1837, still another effort was made, and at this time a small Congregational church was gathered with the assistance of Rev. Anson Gleason, who had been officiating as a missionary at Mohegan.\* The communion plate belonging to the old church of Mr. Wight, which had not been used for forty years, was brought out on this occasion. The attempt to resuscitate the church, however, was not successful. The members soon disbanded, and in 1857 the edifice was sold to the town of Preston for municipal use.

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\* Mr. Gleason, for many years a missionary among the Mohegans and Choctaws, is now (1865) performing missionary duty in Brooklyn, N. Y. He was ordained at Mohegan, April 1, 1835.

The ancient burial-ground of Long Society lies around this building. Here we find the names of many of the early inhabitants,—Corning, Fitch, Giddings, Haskell, Harvey, Hillard, Pride, Roath, Truman, Wight, Williams, &c.

One of the oldest inscribed stones perpetuates the memory of the first deacon of Mr. Wight's church.

HERE LAIS THE  
BODY OF DEACON  
BENIAMIN FITCH  
DIED OCTr 19  
1727 in y<sup>e</sup> 37<sup>th</sup> YEAR  
OF HIS AGE.

*Inscription on the Grave-stone of Rev. Mr. Wight.*

“Sacred to the memory of Rev. Jabez Wight, late Pastor of the Church of Christ in the 2d Society in Preston, who in the 56th year of his ministry and 82d. of his age, on the 15th day of Sept., 1782, Entered into the joy of his Lord.

Zion may in his fall bemoan,  
A Beauty and a pillar gone.”

An obituary notice of Mr. Wight says of him :

“Fond of retirement from the bustling world, he was apparently never so happy as when travelling the road of an unnoticed humility.”

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*Jewett City.* In 1816, the northern part of Preston was made an independent town with the name of Griswold. This new township included a strip of land on the east side of the Quinebaug, south of Plainfield, which was originally a part of the Norwich purchase. The flourishing society of Jewett City lies upon this Norwich strip, and thus comes within our notice as an original part of the nine-miles-square.

Eliezer Jewett, to whom this beautiful village is indebted for its origin and its name, was not a man of finished education, or of any peculiar mental power, but active, persevering, and of a genial, kindly temperament, happy in doing good and opening paths of enterprise for the benefit of others, without laboring to enrich himself. Beginning with only a small farm and a mill-seat on the Pachaug river, he lived to see a flourishing village spread around him, enriched with mills, stores, mechanical operations, and farms in an improved state of tillage, to which the public gave the familiar name of *Jewett-City*, a popular substitute for Jewett-ville or Jewett-farms.



He had at first a grist-mill, and to this he added a saw-mill, and sold out portions of land to induce others to settle near him. About the year 1790, he was joined by John Wilson, a clothier from Massachusetts, whom he encouraged to set up a fulling-mill.\* We learn from Wilson's advertisement that he was ready at his mill to accommodate the public in December, 1793.

In 1804, Elisha Rose had an oil-mill in the neighborhood, and the same year John Scholfield, Jr., set a carding-machine in operation upon the same stream, advertising that he had a complete set of machinery for picking, breaking and carding wool; terms, 12 cts. per lb.

The Scholfield establishment was subsequently purchased by Mr. Wilson, whose enterprise assisted largely in the growth and prosperity of the village. He was a man of solid sense and dignified deportment; highly valued as a citizen. By a change of boundaries, and new acts of incorporation, he became an inhabitant of three different towns, and at distinct periods was a selectman of Norwich, of Preston, and of Griswold, without changing his abode.

In 1820, Mr. Wilson sold the woolen-mill to J. G. W. Trumbull and John Breed. It was destroyed by fire in 1827, and not rebuilt by the owners. Slater's magnificent cotton-mill now occupies the site.

In 1814, the Fanning Manufacturing Company, consisting of four partners, Charles Fanning, Christopher Avery, Joseph Stanton and Joseph C. Tyler, erected a mill upon the river, not far from Scholfield's, and began the manufacture of cotton yarn and cotton cloth. Christopher Lippitt was their agent.

A house of worship was erected in the settlement in 1814, and a church gathered on an Episcopal basis, called St. George's Church. Its first and only Episcopal minister was Rev. Ammi Rogers, who proved to be a man of blighted reputation, unworthy to preach the gospel. When this became known, his congregation fell away, and he left the place in 1818.†

A Congregational society was organized in 1825, and the church was made over to them by the residuary proprietors of the building. This church has had five ministers:

Rev. Seth Bliss, ordained June 15, 1825.

Rev. George Perkins, installed Aug. 8, 1832.

Rev. William Wright, ordained Nov. 8, 1838.

Rev. Thomas L. Shipman, installed April 5, 1843.

Rev. Henry T. Cheever, installed May 29, 1856.

Since 1861, they have had no settled pastor.

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\* Mr. Wilson married Mr. Jewett's daughter. The late Increase Wilson of New London was one of his sons.

† New Year's Sermon by Rev. T. L. Shipman, 1856.

Of these ministers, the Rev. Mr. Shipman is most familiarly associated with the history of the church. His pastorate of ten years was the longest, and since his dismissal, by residing in the place and officiating as pastor whenever vacancies occurred, he has almost doubled that term of service.

Jewett City has also a flourishing Baptist church, which of late years has gathered within its sphere of influence a large proportion of the inhabitants of the village. The house of worship was dedicated in 1844.

Two factories on a grand scale have of late years been added to Jewett City, greatly enhancing the population and importance of the place; viz., the cotton-mill of John F. & W. Slater, and that of the Ashland Cotton Company.

These mills, with others that are projected, and the large amount of water-power in the vicinity, yet unexpended, afford presumptive evidence that Jewett City will become one of the largest manufacturing villages in the State.

In the burial-ground of the village, opened since the year 1800, a slab of red sandstone points out the grave of the founder and gives an epitome of his history.

In Memory of Mr.  
Eliezer Jewett, who  
Died Decr. 7, 1817,  
in the 87th year of his age.

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In April 1771 he began  
the settlement of this village,  
and from his persevering industry  
and active benevolence, it has  
derived its present importance.

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Its name will perpetuate his memory.

Mr. Jewett's ancestry has not been clearly ascertained. It is probable, however, that he was a native of Lisbon, and of the third or fourth generation in descent from an ancestor of the same name who was an inhabitant in 1702, and is supposed to have come from Rowley, Mass.



## CHAPTER XXXV.

### THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

TRADITION is the only source from which any thing has been ascertained respecting the first rise of the Episcopal Church in Norwich. From this authority we learn that the first Church of England men in the place were Thomas Grist and Edmund Gookin, who were "allowed as inhabitants" in 1726.

Mr. Grist, according to report, was born in England, but came early to this country, settled in Norwich, and married in 1721, Ann, daughter of Samuel Birchard.

In 1734, Rev. Ebenezer Punderson, (a graduate of Yale College in 1726,) who had been four years settled over a Congregational church in North Groton, avowed his preference for the Church of England, and having obtained a dismission from his charge, crossed the Atlantic to be re-ordained. He returned with a commission from the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts, and had Norwich, Groton and Hebron assigned to him as a missionary circuit.

A small church was gathered at Poquetannock about the year 1738 by Mr. Punderson, who also held occasional services in Norwich, at the houses of Messrs. Gookin and Grist, the former living on Bean Hill,\* and the latter not far from the Meeting-house Green. Gradually, and at first privately, a little band of ten or a dozen persons assembled on such occasions, to whom the ordinances of the Church were administered. In this part of the town they had no organized society, or house for worship, but the Gookin and Grist families, until their extinction, were faithful and devoted adherents to the Church.

The society at Chelsea grew out of this beginning. When it came to the question of embodying in church estate and building a house of worship, it was decided that the center should be at Chelsea. There is no

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\* The Gookin house was on the central plat of Bean Hill, "bounded southerly on the main road and easterly on the Green:" (now belonging to C. C. Williams.) The last of the Gookin family in Norwich was an ancient spinster, Miss Anna Gookin, who held a life interest in the house for more than thirty years, and died in 1810, aged about eighty.

record extant of the first organization of either the church or society. A piece of ground for the site of a church edifice was given by Capt. Benajah Bushnell, "at the north-east end of Waweequaw's hill, near the old Landing Place," and on the 7th of January, 1746-7, a meeting was held at the town-house, to decide matters relative to the erection of an edifice "for the service of Almighty God, according to the Liturgie of the Church of England, as by law established."

The officers appointed at this meeting were :

Rev. Mr. Punderson, *Moderator*.  
 Capt. Benajah Bushnell, *Treasurer*.  
 Capt. Isaac Clarke, }  
 Mr. Thomas Grist, } *Building Committee*.  
 Mr. Elisha Hide, }

The funds for building were raised by subscription; 87 names being enrolled on the subscription list, and the sum obtained £678. The greatest amount by one individual was £50 by Andrew Galloway. The three gentlemen who formed the building committee subscribed £40 each. Mr. Punderson afterwards collected in Rhode Island, £138, and Capt. Bushnell in Boston, £178. All this was probably Old Tenor money, or Bills of Credit, of reduced value.

The land and the church, when erected, were conveyed by deed to the committee, in trust—

"For the use of the 'Society for propagating the Gospel in foreign parts,' and their successors forevermore, to be appropriated for an Episcopal church and church-yard for the benefit of an Episcopal minister and members of said church, and for no other use, intent or purpose whatsoever."

This edifice stood upon the site now occupied by Christ Church. According to tradition it was a substantial structure, but plain and unadorned, with neither porch nor spire, and a single granite block at the door for a threshold stone. It was completed in 1749. The number of pew-holders was twenty-eight; they built their own pews and held them as their proper estate. The first church officers were :

Capt. Benajah Bushnell, } *Wardens*.  
 Capt. Joseph Tracy, }  
 Capt. Isaac Clarke, }  
 Capt. Thomas Grist, } *Vestrymen*.  
 Capt. Daniel Hall, }  
 Elisha Hide, *Clerk of the Church*.  
 Phineas Holden, *Society Clerk*.

Mr. Punderson had the prime agency in forming this church, and was its first officiating clergyman; but in 1751 he was transferred by the society in England to New Haven, to take charge of an Episcopal society in



that place, and to perform missionary service in the neighboring parishes. He removed about ten years later to Rye, where he died.\* His relict, Mrs. Hannah Punderson, died at Poquetannock in Groton, Feb. 23, 1792, in the 80th year of her age. She was interred at Norwich. The table-stone that covers her grave is directly in front of Christ Church, and bears the following record of her husband:

“Rev. Ebenezer Punderson, Founder and first minister of this Parish, died in 1771, aged 63.”

After Mr. Punderson's departure, the Norwich church remained eleven years without a pastor, but was kept from extinction by the zeal of its members in holding lay services, and the occasional ministrations of Mr. Seabury of New London, and his successor, Mr. Graves.

In 1760, a subscription was raised in the society for Mr. John Beardsley, “towards his inoculation and going to England for orders, that he may preach in the churches of England, at Norwich and Groton.” An engagement was at the same time entered into with him, to pay the annual sum of £33 towards his support, when he should become their minister, which he did in the spring of 1763. The number of male communicants in the Chelsea church was at this time about twenty.

The Groton church mentioned, is the one already alluded to in the village of Poquetannock. That village lies at the head of a creek or cove, which runs out of the Thames about four miles below the Landing. It was early settled, being considered a fine location for fishing, building sea-craft, and exporting wood and timber. A part of it lies in Groton, and it was within the bounds of that town that the Episcopal church was built. It has been generally dependent upon the Norwich church for the administration of the ordinances, but has been sustained to the present time, and is the only church at Poquetannock; no other denomination ever having gathered a church or built a house of worship in that village.

Mr. Beardsley, after his return from England, officiated as pastor of the Norwich church about five years. He was then transferred by the society under whose auspices he labored, to Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

In 1767, a lot of land for a glebe was given by Mrs. Zerviah Bushnell, relict of Capt. Benajah, and conveyed by deed to the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts.† On this lot a glebe-house or manse was erected.

In 1768, an agreement was made with John Tyler, of Wallingford, Conn., by which £60 sterling money of Great Britain was advanced to

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\* He had two sons, born in Groton; Ebenezer in 1735, Cyrus in 1737.

† This deed was annulled by an act of the Legislature in 1835, and the glebe became private property.

him, to defray the expenses of a voyage to England to receive ordination ; he, on his part, engaging to return and officiate as their priest, at a salary of £30 per annum. The money was raised by subscription, and the list contains eighty names.

Mr. Tyler, after embracing the doctrines of the Church of England, had been prepared for holy orders under the instruction of Dr. Johnson of Stamford. He was ordained by the Bishop of London in June, 1768,\* and the next year entered on his duties at Norwich, officiating also at Poquetannock every fourth Sunday.

The parish record begun by Mr. Tyler is entitled, "*Notitia Parochialis of my mission at Norwich.*" The first child baptized by him was Theophila, daughter of John and Delight Grist, Sept. 3, 1769.

Soon after the settlement of Mr. Tyler, the great struggle for liberty commenced, and all other concerns were affected by it, swept as it were into the majestic current. Public opinion made it necessary for the Episcopal clergy either to omit that part of their liturgy which contained prayers for the King and Parliament, or suspend their public service. Mr. Tyler and his people chose the latter course.

Through all the Northern Colonies this was the test offered to Churchmen—Will you drop the prayers for royalty? But neither clergy nor people were in general prepared to yield the point. Many of the churches had originated under English patronage, and their pastors were on the footing of missionaries deriving their support from England. This bound them with a strong tie to the mother country, and they held out long in their loyalty.

In the Southern States the Episcopalians almost uniformly took the patriotic side, and this was attributed mainly to the independence of the clergy. They did not, like those at the North, draw their support from the mother country.

The church at Norwich was closed for three years, no entry being made on the records from April, 1776, to April, 1779. But it is remembered that during a part of this time at least, Mr. Tyler held a service in his own house. Various instances occurred of harsh language, and petty persecution of churchmen, but no violent exhibitions of displeasure were made.† Mr. Tyler was prudent, quiet, and reserved. A part of his congregation cordially favored independence, and family influence likewise operated in his favor ; his father-in-law, Isaac Tracy, Esq., being deacon of the Congregational church, and an avowed patriot.

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\* The original commission to exercise his office in America, executed by Richard (Herrick) Lord Bishop of London, June 29, 1768, is preserved by the family.

† It is said that Mr. Grist, the Englishman, and his neighbor, Richard Hyde, Esq., had frequent and sharp disputes. but they never went further than a threatening shake of the fist and a final splutter, through fixed teeth, of *You tory!* and *You rebel!*





Engraved by J.C. Buttre, New York.

*John Tyler*

REV. JOHN TYLER

DEAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK





When the church was again opened, the prayers for the King and Parliament were omitted, but the congregation had dwindled to an audience of about twenty persons. Under the popular ministry of Mr. Tyler, however, the society gradually increased in numbers and influence. In 1780 the church was repaired, and a porch, bell and steeple added.\* But the location was considered inconvenient, and in 1789 the society decided on removing to a more central position. A lot was proffered by Phineas Holden, near the east end of Main street, "opposite the house of Capt. Stephen Colver," and accepted by the parish.

To this spot the old edifice, which had stood about forty years, was removed, and there enlarged and remodeled. The former owners of the pews relinquished their rights, the seats were sold, and the money applied to parochial uses. The new purchasers were thirty in number.

The committee for removing and reconstructing the church were Major Ebenezer Whiting, Barzillai Davison, Benadam Denison, and James Christie.

It was dedicated May 19, 1791, by the Rev. Dr. Seabury, Bishop of Connecticut, to the worship of God "according to the liturgy of the Church of England accommodated to the civil constitution of these American States."

Ebenezer Whiting,     }  
Ebenezer Huntington, } *Wardens.*  
Jabez Huntington, *Society Clerk.*

The designation of "Christ's Church in Chelsea" first appears on record in 1785.

With the exception of the political jealousy during the Revolutionary contest, the Episcopalians and Congregationalists of Norwich have never exhibited any acrimony against each other. On the contrary, social intercourse has been generally maintained, irrespective of denominational bounds, and the two sects have in many instances interchanged civilities, in a truly courteous and Christian spirit.

At a very early period we find that the Episcopal church employed the Congregational collector to collect Mr. Tyler's rates. Invitations have sometimes been cordially given to the Episcopalians to celebrate their festivals in the larger edifices of the Congregationalists, which have been cheerfully accepted; and in two instances at least, when the latter have been by sudden disasters deprived for a season of a place of worship, the doors of Christ's Church have been freely opened to them. One instance from the records may be given.

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\* In January, 1786, Mr. John Wood, from White Haven, England, was ordained in this church by Rt. Rev. Samuel Seabury—first as deacon, and two days later as priest. He was appointed to labor in Hampton, Va.

"At a legal meeting of the Episcopal Parish of Christ's Church, in Norwich, on Wednesday, Feb. 19, 1794, Thomas Mumford, Moderator,

"Voted, that this meeting, taking into consideration that the Presbyterian church in this place, of which the Rev. Walter King is Pastor, are destitute of a convenient place in which to attend public worship, their meeting-house having been lately destroyed by fire, do consent to accommodate said Presbyterian society until Easter Monday, 1795, as follows: the Rev<sup>d</sup> John Tyler, our present pastor, to perform divine service one half the day on each Sabbath, and the Rev. Walter King, pastor of said Presbyterian congregation, to perform divine service the other half of said Sabbath, alternately performing on the first part of the day."

For this kind and considerate courtesy, the obliged party passed a vote of acknowledgment and thanks, which was inserted upon the records of both societies. The offer was accepted, and this amicable arrangement lasted for three months.

Mr. Tyler died Jan. 20, 1823, in the 81st year of his age, after a pastorate of 54 years. He was an interesting preacher; his voice sweet and solemn, and his eloquence persuasive. The benevolence of his heart was manifested in daily acts of courtesy and charity to those around him. He studied medicine in order to benefit the poor, and to find out remedies for some of those peculiar diseases to which no common specifics seemed to apply. His pills, ointments, extracts and syrups obtained a great local celebrity. During the latter years of his life, he was so infirm as to need assistance in the performance of his functions.

Rev. Peter J. Clark served as his assistant for two or three years, and was succeeded by the Rev. Seth B. Paddock, who, on the death of the venerable incumbent, became rector of the church. The age and long infirmity of Dr. Tyler had operated against the growth and efficiency of the parish, and when Mr. Paddock's pastorate commenced, the congregation was small, and the sacred edifice itself in a decaying state. During his rectorship a new church was built and the influence of the society largely increased.

In his farewell sermon, Mr. Paddock says:

"Within the twenty-two and a half years of my ministry there have been connected with the parish 380 families. Of these I found in it less than 40. More than 150 now remain, and about 190 have become extinct or removed to other parts."

Mr. Paddock resigned the pastorate in 1844, and took charge of an academy in Cheshire, Ct., at which place he died in 1851. He was a man of great integrity and piety; amiable in all the relations of life.

Rectors of Christ Church since Mr. Paddock:

Rev. William F. Morgan; in office twelve years and a half, from September, 1844, to March, 1857. He then accepted a call to St. Thomas' Church, New York.

The parish at that time reported 206 families; 210 communicants.



Rev. J. Treadwell Walden; in office six years. He resigned in March, 1863, in order to take charge of St. Clement's Church, Philadelphia.

Rev. David F. Banks, the present pastor.

Two churches, both costly and imposing edifices, were erected by this society within the compass of twenty years—from 1828 to 1848. The first was during the rectorship of Mr. Paddock. It stands on a lot extending from Main to Church street, a few rods west of the former church.\* The whole cost, including organ and furniture, was about \$13,000. It was consecrated by the diocesan Bishop, Rev. Thomas C. Brownell, July 29, 1829. This has since changed its designation, and is now Trinity Church.

In 1846, during the rectorship of Mr. Morgan, the society decided to resume for church service, the old Bushnell site on Washington street, from which the church was removed sixty years previous, and which had since been used as a cemetery. On this spot, over the ashes of the dead, another church edifice, of an antique style of architecture, was erected at a cost of nearly \$50,000. A tower separate from the church formed a part of the original plan, but this has never been built.

The corner-stone was laid by Bishop Lee, of Delaware, Aug. 31, 1846, and the church consecrated in 1848.

When the society removed to this new edifice, they carried their designation, Christ Church, with them, and the house they left was for a short time closed. It was soon, however, re-opened as a chapel, or dependent upon Christ Church, but this arrangement was of short duration. In 1850, a new and independent parish was organized, the edifice purchased, and a second Episcopal church inaugurated, with the title of Trinity Church.

Rectors: Rev. Edward O. Flagg, from May, 1849, to 1853.

Rev. Benjamin H. Paddock, (a native of the town, and son of a former rector of Christ Church,) from August, 1853, to 1860.

Rev. John V. Lewis, from 1860 to August, 1865, when he accepted a call to Washington, D. C.

Mr. Tyler is the only rector of the Episcopal Church in Norwich who has died while in office.

After the removal of the old church edifice from the Bushnell lot in 1790, the site being wholly appropriated to interments, soon became seeded with the dead. Here the fathers that had founded the church were laid in their last resting-places. Here were gathered the remains

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\* The old edifice was taken down and sold to an Episcopal association in Salem, Ct., to which place it was removed and reconstructed about 1830. Services were held in it for a few years by Episcopalians and Methodists, but the congregation declined, and it was subsequently purchased by the town. The spire, tower and pews were removed; the building was appropriated to civil affairs, and is still extant as the town-house on Salem Green.

of Rev. John Tyler and his wife, Mrs. Hannah Tyler, and of Mrs. Hannah Punderson, relict of the first minister. Here were buried Benajah Bushnell and wife; Thomas Grist at the age of 82; Phineas Holden, 76, and his wife Zerviah, 85; the second Capt. Richard Bushnell, 74; his relict Prudence, 76, and his maiden daughter Hannah, 87.

Others brought here at a later date, extinct under a burden of years, were Barzillai Davison, dying in 1828, aged 90; Solomon Hamilton, 1798, aged 87; Sarah, relict of Samuel Brown, 1795, in her 95th year; Lemuel Warren, "Clerk of Christ Church," 1812, aged 79, and near him his wife and three maiden daughters.

As persons of some note resting in this cemetery, we may notice the two Malbones, Capt. Evan and Capt. Solomon, merchants who removed to Norwich from Newport during the Revolutionary war; the former died in 1781, aged 73, and the latter in 1787, aged 76. The relict of Evan Malbone, and his only daughter, with her husband, Capt. Samuel Johnson, repose with them.

The earliest date found is 1757, which appears on the stones commemorative of Capt. John Culver, aged 60, and Thomas Griste, 25.

Other names inscribed here, of persons respectable as citizens and heads of families, were these:

Albertus Siraut Destouches, a native of Bordeaux, died Dec. 17, 1796, aged 59.

Bentley Faulkner, died in 1776, aged 42.

Capt. Allen Ingraham, died in 1785, aged 42.

Capt. William Wattles, died in 1787, aged 48.

Capt. Solomon Whipple, died in 1787, aged 48.

Matthew Leffingwell, died in 1797, aged 59.

Robert Lancaster, died in 1770, aged 76.

Capt. William Davison, died in 1803, aged 40.

Doctor Nathan Tisdale, died in 1830, aged 58.

When the new church was built on the old site, the stones but not the relics of the dead were removed; the edifice was erected over the sacred repository. The graves of the Rev. Mr. Tyler and his wife were just under the altar. The monumental stone of the former has this inscription:

Here lie interred  
The earthly remains of  
The Rev. John Tyler,  
For 54 years Rector of Christ's  
Church in this City. Having  
faithfully fulfilled his ministry,  
He was ready to be dissolved  
and to be with Christ.  
His soul took its flight  
from this Vale of Misery  
Jan'y 20, 1823, in the 81st  
year of his age.



Col. Samuel Tyler, in business at the Landing for more than sixty years, as a druggist, was the only son of Rector Tyler that lived to maturity. He died Sept. 20, 1854.

## CHURCHES RECAPITULATED.

1st. Built in 1749, on the Bushnell lot, at the base of Wawweekus Hill, (now Washington street.)

2d. Reconstructed on the Holden lot, "opposite the house of Capt. Stephen Colver," Main street. The frame and other materials of the former church were removed and used in the building, which was therefore both new and old. It was relinquished in 1829, taken down and removed. The Main street Congregational church was built on the site in 1844, but destroyed by fire in 1854. A free church has since been erected by the Methodists on the same ground, making three successive churches, of three different denominations, on the spot.

3d. Built of stone, in 1828, on a lot extending from Main to Church street; relinquished to Trinity Church in 1850.

4th. Built of stone, in 1847, on the old Bushnell site, where the first church stood.

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Half-century ministers, settled fifty years or more over one congregation within the original bounds of Norwich:

James Fitch,	56 years.	} Congregational
Benjamin Lord, D. D.,	67 "	
Joseph Strong, D. D.,	56 "	
Andrew Lee, D. D.,	64 "	
Levi Nelson,	51 "	
Jabez Wight,	56 "	} Episcopalian.
John Tyler,	54 "	

## CHAPTER XXXVI.

### SIXTH, OR CHELSEA SOCIETY; NOW THE SECOND.

THE Sixth Society was organized Nov. 29, 1751 : Capt. Jabez Dean, moderator of the meeting.

Daniel Kingsbury was chosen Society Clerk.

Capt. Dean, Eleazar Waterman, and Nathaniel Backus, Society and School Committee.

Prosper Wetmore chosen Collector, but excused, and Ebenezer Fitch substituted.

Capt. Dean was commissioned to procure a minister, and directed to apply first to Mr. Elijah Lathrop of Windham. A regular service was not, however, commenced until April, 1752, when Mr. John Curtice was the officiating clergyman. He remained with the society to the close of the year, boarding at Mr. John Elderkin's tavern, and receiving for pay what was collected by voluntary contributions. The service was held in private houses, and the people were called together by the tap of the drum.

Early in 1755, Mr. Ebenezer Cleveland was engaged to preach for a year, and paid by monthly contributions. The same year a funeral pall, bier and burying-ground were purchased. The latter was a well-wooded lot, comprising an acre and a half, and the wood cut from it paid the whole expense. The purchase was made of Jonathan Bushnell, May 24, 1755. It has since been enlarged, and is still used as the society burial-ground. Though now girdled with the habitations of the living, it is a place of unusual interest, beautified with many appropriate monuments, hallowed by the remains of the good, the beautiful, and the beloved, and from the elevation of its site, overlooking in calm repose the turmoil of the city.

In March, 1756, it was proposed to engage Mr. John Fuller to preach the gospel, "if he may be had;" but there is no evidence that Mr. Fuller or any other minister was obtained, or that for three or four years afterwards they had any regular Sabbath service.

June 30, 1759. "At a society meeting it was voted to give Rev. Nathaniel Whitaker a call to settle in the work of the gospel ministry, provided he shall be regularly dismissed from his present charge, and provided he and those who shall form themselves into a church shall agree in matters of faith and practice."



Mr. Whitaker decided to accept this call. The salary was fixed at £100 per annum, with the pledge of a settlement of £100, when the general list of the society (exclusive of the lists of churchmen and those excused by law from paying ministerial rates) should amount to £6,000. These votes were ratified and confirmed on the last day of the year. Mr. Whitaker arrived with his family and goods, by water, April 12, 1760. A room for preaching had been prepared in the tavern kept by Samuel Trapp, (afterwards the well-known residence of Capt. Benjamin Coit,) and a bell to take the place of the Sabbath drum was suspended in the rear of the house, from a scaffolding erected upon a rock.\*

In organizing the church, some difficulties occurred. As a natural consequence of his antecedent connections, Mr. Whitaker was attached to the Presbyterian polity, and urged its adoption as the platform of the church. The articles drawn up by him were thoroughly Presbyterian, agreeing with those of the Church of Scotland, though several of the society vigorously contended for the Congregational form.

The church record, which begins with that day, says :

After many endeavours the church was gathered and formed by signing a Covenant and articles of faith under the direction of the Rev. Messrs. Jabez Wight and Benjamin Throop on the 24th day of July, 1760. These signed :

Nathaniel Whitaker,  
Nathaniel Backus,  
John Porter,

Isaiah Tiffany, ,  
Nathaniel Shipman,  
Seth Alden.†

Messrs. Backus and Shipman recorded their dissent from some of the articles, and it was mutually agreed to leave the whole matter to the decision of the installing council. This council, composed of ministers and delegates from eight neighboring churches, met the day previous to the installation and recommended that the Presbyterian plan should be laid aside, and no human form adopted at present, but that they should take the word of God for their rule and directory, in discipline and manners, as well as faith, and not use any platforms of human composition for their assistance in understanding the word, until God should give them light in a more explicit manner. To this decision the church assented.

Mr. Whitaker was installed Feb. 25, 1761. Dr. Lord of the First Society preached the sermon. Mr. Wheelock of Lebanon, Mr. Throop

\* Items of the Society expenditure :

Jan. 1671. To pay the freight of Mr. Whitaker's family and goods from ye Jersies to this place in April last, £12.

To Capt. Trap for ye use of his house 9 months to hold public worship in, £4 : 10, and 20s. for hanging and ringing the bell.

Capt. Trapp was afterwards paid for his house £6 per year.

† Tiffany was from the Lebanon church; Porter from the church in Mansfield; Backus and Shipman from the first and Alden from the fourth church in Norwich.

of the Fourth or New Concord society, and Mr. Hezekiah Lord of Preston, took part in the services. At this time six other persons, previously members of neighboring churches, united with the church, signing the articles in presence of the installing council.

Jonathan Huntington,  
William Capron,  
Caleb Whitney,

Jabez Dean,  
Eleazar Waterman,  
Ebenezer Fitch.

No church at this period had been built, and the installation services were held under the wide canopy of heaven. From a notice in the printed sermon of Dr. Lord, we learn that some passages were omitted in the delivery, out of compassion to the audience thus exposed to the wintry air "*in the open field.*" It would be interesting to know the precise gathering-place.

The reverend teacher mildly alludes to the controversy that had so long agitated the people, by expressing a wish that "Christ's little flock, his people in this place," would henceforth "agree to keep together in one Fold, without any more discord, or divided interests."

The first appointment of church officers on record, is Dec. 30, 1763, when four elders were chosen to office, viz., Messrs. Jabez Dean, Nathaniel Shipman, Isaiah Tiffany, and Jonathan Huntington.

The subject of erecting a house of worship was discussed at a society meeting held at the house of William Davison in June, 1757, but no decision was made till Jan. 4, 1760, when two-thirds of all persons qualified to vote in the society were present, and the resolution passed *to build a meeting-house.*

A lot eligibly situated was found, the county court gave their warrant to set up a stake on the spot, a building committee was appointed, and a plan of the house formed. It was to have sixty pews, which were to be sold at a price that would cover the whole expense of the building.

But at this stage of the proceeding it was found that the lot was too small for the purpose, and the committee gave notice that the adjoining proprietors, Samuel Bliss and Daniel Tracy, *would not sell an inch.* The project therefore, which seemed so feasible, fell through. The court ordered the stake to be removed, and Chelsea was left three and a half years longer without a regular house of worship.

It was not easy to find a convenient site. The streets and buildings were closely packed along the narrow border of the headland, and the high ridges that frowned over them were partly forested, and everywhere rugged and precipitous. The perpendicular ascents had not yet been taught to glide into gentle slopes; people had not begun to build above, and land below was scarce and costly.

In 1763, a lot was purchased of Isaac Huntington at 70s. per square



rod, and a meeting-house 37 feet by 41 erected on the spot. A memorial was presented to the General Assembly for assistance in the undertaking, and a sum of money (the income of the excise tax) was granted to the society from the public treasury. It appears that Capt. Trapp was paid for the use of his house to the 12th of July, 1764, and it is probable that after that time the meeting-house, though then but a shell, was used for the Sabbath service. The bell was removed from its old position on the rock, and suspended from the limb of a large tree near the door. This church stood on a part of the area now occupied by Mansfield's block of brick buildings. It was completed in 1766, and thirty-three pews marked out, besides one at the right of the pulpit for the minister. The basement was let out for mercantile purposes. The first year, seventeen spaces for pews were sold, each pew being expected to accommodate two families, which could easily be done, as most of the young people, above the age of children, were accustomed to sit in the galleries.

It may be interesting at the present day to read a list of the pew-holders, particularly to see who were associated in the same pew.

- No. 1. The Minister and his family.
- 2. Seth Harding and William Rockwell.
- 3. Sybille Crocker and Jonathan Lester.
- 7. Thomas Trapp, Jr., and Stephen Barker.
- 9. Jabez Dean and Elijah Lothrop.
- 10. John Tracy and Peter Lanman.
- 11. Joseph Trumbull and Jabez Perkins.
- 12. Ephraim Bill and Hugh Ledlie.
- 13. Ebenezer Fillmore, Jr., and Timothy Herrick.
- 14. William Coit and Simeon Carew.
- 18. Nathaniel Backus and Nathaniel Backus, Jr.
- 19. Abel Brewster and John Martin.
- 21. David Lamb and Moses Pierce.
- 23. Benajah Leffingwell and Ezra Backus.
- 25. Benjamin Huntington and Nathaniel Shipman.
- 26. Joseph Smith and Isaac Park.
- 27. Stephen Roath and Stephen Roath, Jr.

The omitted numbers were allotted to the space which remained unsold, until Mr. Judson's ordination.

In the meantime, before the completion of the meeting-house, a portion of Mr. Whitaker's church became dissatisfied with his ministry. They accused him of stepping aside from his duty as a clergyman, to engage in trade, and in this line, of having attempted to monopolize the vending of wine, raisins, &c., in the society. A council was called, before which these charges were laid, but no decision obtained. While the matter was still agitated, the Connecticut Board of Correspondence for Indian Affairs nominated Mr. Whitaker to accompany Occom, the Mohegan preacher, on

a mission to Europe, to solicit benefactions for the endowment of "Moor's Indian Charity School" at Lebanon, which was under the charge of the Rev. Mr. Wheelock.

When this project was laid before the society, they refused their consent to Mr. Whitaker's acceptance of the office. Another meeting was called, and the vote reconsidered, but with the same result. It is evident that while a few members were bent on compelling him to relinquish the pastorate,\* the majority were sincerely attached to his ministrations, and unwilling to part with him. Two advisory councils were called, and it was at length proposed that Mr. Whitaker should be allowed to accept the agency without dissolving his relation to the church, but that he should relinquish his salary during his absence; his people to have the privilege of settling another minister before his return, if they chose; and if such an event took place, he was to be considered as dismissed. If he should return before the settlement of another minister, a council was to be convened to decide whether he should continue with them or be dismissed. This conciliatory proposition, which emanated from Dr. Lord of the First Society, was accepted.

Jan. 9, 1766. The parties present at publishing this advice manifested their acceptance thereof, and further signified it by signing, as follows:

Nathaniel Whitaker,	Thomas Trapp, Jr.	Nathaniel Shipman,
Joshua Prior,	Abiel Cheney,	Gershom Breed,
Gurdon Huntington,	Lemuel Warren,	Benjamin Dennis,
Benajah Leffingwell,	Prosper Wetmore,	Nathaniel Baekus, Jr.
Joseph Smith,	George Dennis,	Jonathan Huntington,
Nathaniel Backus,	William Coit,	Caleb Whitney,
Eleazar Waterman,	Ebenezer Fitch,	Peter Lanman.
Jabez Dean,	Joseph Trumbull,	

Mr. Whitaker was a man of fine talents and prepossessing appearance. He had manifested great interest in the prosperity of Mr. Wheelock's Indian school at Lebanon, and in the welfare of the Mohegan Indians, his neighbors. On these accounts he had been selected as a proper person to accompany Mr. Oocom on his mission.

They carried with them a printed book containing recommendations, and an exposition of the state of Indian Missions in North America. Mr. Whitaker's recommendation from his church is as follows:

The Church of Christ at Chelsey, in Norwich, in Conn: in New England, to all the Churches of Christ, and whomsoever it may concern, send greeting:

Whereas it has pleased God in his Providence, to call our Reverend and worthy Pastor, Mr. Nathaniel Whitaker, from us for a season, to go to Europe, to solicit charities for the Indian Charity School, under the care of the Rev. Mr. Ebenezer Wheelock,

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\* The six aggrieved members were Nathaniel Backus, Sen. and Jun., Ephraim Bill, Prosper Wetmore, Peter Lanman, and William Coit.



of Lebanon, and to promote Christian knowledge among the Indians on this continent :

We do unanimously recommend him, the said Mr. Whitaker and his services, to all the churches and people of God, of whatever denomination, and wheresoever he may come, as a faithful minister of Jesus Christ, whose praise is in the gospel through the churches ; earnestly requesting brotherly kindness and charity may be extended towards him as occasion may require ; and that the grand and important cause in which he is engaged, may be forwarded and promoted by all the lovers of truth.

Wishing grace, mercy and truth may be multiplied to you and the whole Israel of God, and desiring an interest in your prayers, we subscribe

Yours in the faith and fellowship of the gospel,

By order and in behalf }  
said Church. }

JONATHAN HUNTINGTON.  
ISAIAH TIFFANY.

NORWICH, Oct. 21, 1766.

The delegates were eminently successful in their mission, both in England and Scotland, and collected funds amounting nearly to ten thousand pounds sterling.\*

Some disagreement arose between Mr. Whitaker and his Indian associate before they left England, and the latter in his confidential correspondence threw out hints that were calculated to excite suspicions of Mr. Whitaker's integrity. This distrust was, undoubtedly, without cause, originating probably in misapprehension, or disagreement of opinion. The most inflexible of Mr. Whitaker's opponents at Chelsea never questioned his integrity, and the majority of his congregation adhered to him with strong and unwavering trust.

During Mr. Whitaker's absence, his pulpit appears to have been most of the time vacant. Mr. Wales was at one time paid £9 for preaching, and Mr. Thatcher £18. No other supplies are recorded. The mission to Europe occupied about a year and a half. Mr. Whitaker's salary was

\* A Bible presented to Occom, while in England, according to tradition, *by the king*, is in the possession of Mrs. G. B. Ripley of Norwich.

The following letter, written by Occom from London to his daughters at home, is a curious example of Mohegan ingenuity :

My dear Mary and Esther—

Perhaps you may query whether I am well : I came from home well, was by the way well, got over well, am received at London well, and am treated extremely well,—yea, I am caress'd too well. And do you pray that I may be well ; and that I may do well, and in Time return Home well. And I hope you are well, and wish you well, and as I think you begun well, so keep on well, that you may end well, and then all will be well.

And so Farewell.

*Samson Occom.*

re-commenced June 2, 1768, which was doubtless the day of his return to Norwich and resumption of his pastoral duties. A society meeting was held to determine if they would call a council of dismissal, as agreed upon before his departure, and the majority decided in the negative. Very soon, however, the old grievances recurred, and at a society meeting Jan 3, 1769, it was put to vote—

“Whether ye society will agree with Rev. Nath’l Whitaker D. D. and ye aggrieved members of the Society, in calling ye Council agreed upon Nov. 6, 1765, to convene at this place on ye 24th inst.

“Resolved in ye affirmative.”

Before this council the church laid the charges brought by Mr. Whitaker against the six aggrieved members, and the council, after considering all the matters of complaint and difficulty, advised dismissal. This result Mr. Whitaker laid before the church and society respectively, and after enumerating the embarrassments that threatened his future usefulness, requested to be released from his pastoral office. Both assemblies were reluctant, and voted against his dismissal,—the church unanimously, and the society 28 against 9. It was agreed, however, at Mr. Whitaker’s request, that another council should be called, with the express understanding that all parties would yield to its decision. This council also advised dismissal, and accordingly the same day Mr. Whitaker was dismissed, the church recording their unwilling consent in these terms:

March 24, 1769. “Voted that the Chh. have always been and still are averse to a dismission of Rev. Dr. Whitaker, as they do not see any sufficient reason for it, and earnestly desire his continuance and by no means desire to be understood to have the least hand in his removal, yet they consent to the same and will submit to the result of Council.”

Mr. Whitaker was no common-place character. He had great quickness and force of mind. The ardor of his temperament and his ceaseless activity may sometimes have drawn him aside from his ministerial functions, or led him to take a position slightly antagonistic and controversial, but he had noble traits of character. His name is honorably connected with the foundation of Dartmouth College, and the degree of D. D. conferred upon him by the college in New Jersey shows that his ability and enterprise were appreciated by his cotemporaries.

He was subsequently installed at Salem, Mass., and at Norridgewock, Me.; being dismissed from the latter place in 1790, he went to Virginia, and there died.\*

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\* Mr. Whitaker brought with him to Norwich his wife, Sarah, and two young children, James and Elizabeth. He had two daughters born in the place: Sarah, March 21, 1761, and Mary, March 27, 1764.



Mr. Whitaker's publications amount to some eight or ten pamphlets, consisting of occasional sermons and tracts on passing events of a theological type. Perhaps the earliest of these publications is

"THE TRIAL OF THE SPIRITS :

A Sermon on 1 John iv. 1. Preached at Newent, in Norwich, March 17, 1762; and published at the Desire of those who heard it." (Printed in Providence: By William Goddard.)

This was directed against the *New Lights*, whose principles were then spreading in the churches, and particularly designed to counteract the teachings of those who "set up the *Light within*, and their own Spirits and Notions as the standard to which the Scripture must be brought."

A void of two and a half years succeeded in the pastorate at Chelsea. Mr. Punderson Austin occupied the pulpit for nine months, but declined a settlement. Mr. Joseph Howe was spoken of as a desirable candidate, but his services were not procured.

In May, 1771, Mr. Ephraim Judson of Woodbury, Conn., came among the people by invitation, and gave such general satisfaction that after a short experience of his ministry, he was called to the pastoral office by a vote entirely unanimous, and ordained Oct. 3d of that year. At this time the meeting-house was freshened and improved. The bell was removed, and erected upon the hill near the house of Mr. Lemuel Boswell. Ten new pews were built, and assigned as follows:

- No. 4. Hannah Wight and Joseph Kelley.
- 5. Jacob De Witt and John M'Larran Breed.
- 6. John and Peter Waterman.
- 8. Benjamin and George Dennis.
- 15. Caleb Whitney and Joshua Norman.
- 16. Daniel Kelley and William Capron.
- 17. Prosper Wetmore and Ebenezer Fitch.
- 20. David and Samuel Roath.
- 22. William Reed and Zephaniah Jennings.
- 24. Joseph Wight and Lemuel Boswell.

The society voted to purchase the house and lot of Ezekiel Story at £120 for a settlement for Mr. Judson. This house was on the hill near the burial-ground. Mr. Judson began to occupy it in 1773. It was secured to him as his personal property, in case he should remain five years with the society.

Mr. Judson was a man of pleasing aspect and dignified demeanor, tall and stately. He seldom used notes, and though he reasoned well, and often threw out striking remarks, his sermons were usually in the style of common conversation, elucidated with comments that sometimes fell below the level of an intelligent audience and the dignity of the pulpit. For

instance, in a sermon upon the Brazen Serpent, he repeatedly called it the *Brass Snake*. His expressions were sometimes very quaint and whimsical. Preaching at one time on the excuses made by the guests who were invited to the wedding feast, he observed that one had bought five yoke of oxen, and civilly entreated to be excused: but the one who had married a wife replied absolutely, *he could not come*. Hence learn, said the preacher, that *one woman can pull harder than five yoke of oxen*. Mr. Judson once preached in the first society, a sermon particularly addressed to young women, which, contrary to his usual custom, was *written out* and elaborately finished in the style of Hervey's *Meditations*. To make it more impressive, he introduced a fictitious character of the name of *Clarinda*, expatiated upon her wit and beauty, and the number of her admirers, followed her to the ball-room, and other scenes of gaiety, and then laid her upon a death-bed with all the pathos of a romance.\*

But these reminiscences apply to Mr. Judson only as a young man, during the first years of a long ministry. Preachers are generally recalled to mind by those salient points of character and habit that strike the popular observation. Mr. Judson is therefore transmitted to us in the costume of his eccentricities. He was nevertheless esteemed in his day for higher qualities,—faithful performance of ministerial duty, and sincere patriotism. His delivery, usually slow and monotonous, on subjects connected with the liberties of the nation, would rise almost to enthusiasm. He took an early and active part in the Revolutionary struggle, and when offered a chaplaincy in the army, accepted the appointment with alacrity. This event and the consequent action of the society are thus registered:

Aug. 14, 1776. Rev. Ephraim Judson having been appointed Chaplain in Col. Ward's regiment in the Continental service, generously proposes to relinquish his salary during his absence, and asks leave to go.

Permission granted.

But his health was not equal to the arduous duties that devolved upon him. He was absent several months, and then returned an invalid; and though he continued two years longer with his people, he seems never to have recovered his former health. Some of his habits that have been attributed to indolence, may have been forced upon him by physical infirmity. He would occasionally deliver his sermons in a sitting posture. He adopted also the Scotch custom of a recess in the middle of the sermon, to be occupied by the choir in singing, and it is said that in warm weather he would give out a psalm of eight or ten stanzas, long meter, and withdraw to a high rock just in the rear of the church, to enjoy the refreshing river-breeze during its performance.

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\* For these and other occasional illustrations of former persons and scenes, the author is indebted to the tenacious memory and conversational amenity of Rev. Dr. Strong of the First Society.



In October, 1778, he asked a dismissal from office, grounding his motion on these points:

“Want of competent support, usefulness obstructed by infirm health, inability to study, negligence of the people in attending public worship,—some other minister may be more beneficial.”

The church and society appointed committees to converse with him and endeavor to smooth over these difficulties. But he remained firm to his purpose, and they at length concurred with him in referring the matter to a council of the neighboring ministers. This council met Dec. 15, and after considering Mr. Judson's pleas, decided unanimously—

“That there is an unavoidable necessity of Mr. Judson's removal, and [we] do accordingly dismiss him:—especially on account of his weak state of health, which will not admit of a sedentary life or close application to study; together with an unhappy appearance of indifference to his administration. Yet we cannot but express our great satisfaction in finding the measure of mutual love and respect that subsists between Mr. Judson and his people. We are satisfied with Mr. Judson's ministerial character, hope for his better health and future usefulness in the ministry. And may it please God to raise up for this people another able and faithful minister.”

“We also find that the degree of exertion for Mr. Judson's support has been very considerable, considering the present public exigencies.”

Mr. Judson afterward preached for a short time at Canterbury, Conn., and was successively installed at Taunton and at Sheffield, Mass. He died at the latter place, Feb. 23, 1813, in his 76th year.\*

In 1781 a new bell was purchased, and a belfry built for its reception at the east end of the meeting-house.

A vacancy in the pastorate, of eight years, followed the dismissal of Mr. Judson, during which time the Sabbath service was but partially sustained. All public enterprises felt the paralyzing influence of the war, and stood in abeyance, waiting for better times.

Among the temporary supplies of this period were Mr. Zebulon Ely and Mr. David Austin, both graduates of Yale, of the class of 1779, and then making their first experiments in the pulpit. Mr. Ely was afterward for forty years pastor of the Lebanon church, and Mr. Austin, after many vicissitudes of life and changes of opinion, became in 1815 pastor of the church in Bozrah. Various other names are found, of persons who supplied the pulpit during this long vacancy.†

\* Rev. Adoniram Judson, D. D., the celebrated missionary to the Burman Empire, was a nephew of Mr. Ephraim Judson.

† Dec. 1782. Voted to pay the bill of Joseph Williams for boarding Messrs. Hide, Ellis, Chase, and other preachers: also the bill of Mr. John M. Breed for boarding Mr. Mills while preaching.

Sept. 7, 1786. Voted to pay the Committee for boarding the ministers since December last. Minister's pay, 38s. per Sabbath.

No single person was probably so serviceable in continuing the ministrations at this period, as Mr. Nathaniel Niles, who was then a resident of Norwich,—a licensed preacher, but engaged likewise in other pursuits, and not desirous of a settlement. He had married the daughter of Elijah Lathrop, and remained in the town ten or twelve years, taking an active part in the patriotic movements of the day, and in all objects of public interest, and serving as representative to the General Assembly for the spring sessions of 1779, '80, and '81. He was moreover connected with his father-in-law in various manufacturing interests that were beneficial to the country. They had establishments for making chocolate, iron-wire, and cards. Mr. Niles was himself the inventor of a process for making iron-wire out of bar-iron, the machinery for which was here first put into operation.

Notwithstanding his numerous engagements, he was commonly prepared on the Sunday with a well-studied though generally unwritten discourse, and willing to occupy any vacant pulpit, or to preach without a pulpit, in any school-house, hall, or private room, where his services were required. In Chelsea he officiated often during Mr. Judson's absence, and after his dismissal, and for several years was the main reliance upon which the society fell back when other applications failed. He had the reputation of a metaphysical preacher, fond of doctrinal points, and shrewd in drawing lines of difference. The natural bias of his mind seems to have led in that direction.\* He was fearless, however, in denouncing popular sins, and earnest in calling upon all to repent.

Two discourses delivered in this society, July 12, 1778, and afterwards written out and published at the request of the hearers, are doubtless fair specimens of the general tone of his preaching.† They are clear and forcible in statement, and fervid in appeal.

In versatility of talent, Mr. Niles was one of the most remarkable men of his time. He had studied medicine, given some attention to law, and had taught a grammar school in New York, where Lindley Murray, afterward an author of grammars, was his pupil. In theology he had been a student with Dr. Bellamy. His literary talents were above the common order, but in this line he is chiefly distinguished for a sapphic ode, called *The American Hero*. This poem first appeared in print in the Connecticut Gazette, Feb. 2, 1776, but dated Norwich, 1775. It had been circu-

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\* It is related that when at College both he and his brother Samuel were so conspicuous for keenness and subtlety in argument, as to be familiarly distinguished by the titles of Botheration Primus and Botheration Secundus. Sprague's Am. Pulpit.

† Printed by John Trumbull, 1779. The texts were Luke 8:18, and 6:46. This publication, and a sermon of Mr. Niles' entitled *The Remembrance of Christ*, delivered at Medway, Oct. 31, 1773, and printed in Boston, are omitted in Dr. Sprague's list of the publications of Mr. Niles, in his *American Pulpit*.



lated and sung in private and patriotic meetings, before it was printed, the music being composed by one of the author's friends.\*

After the conclusion of the war, and the death of his first wife, Mr. Niles removed into a wild part of Vermont, which he lived to see transformed into farms and villages, glowing with fertility and comfort. His ministerial vocation was carried with him through life, though he was never settled as a pastor, or even ordained, and refused, according to report, seventeen calls. In the town where he settled, he was the first white inhabitant and the first preacher; holding meetings in his house for twelve years before a church could be built. He was also much employed in civil affairs; was for many years a Judge of the Supreme Court, and Member of Congress from 1791 to 1795. Not by the title of *Reverend*, but as *Judge Niles*, he was commonly known. He died at West Fairlee, Vt., Oct. 31, 1828, aged 88.

The society had now been eight years without a pastor, when Mr. Walter King, of Wilbraham, Mass., came among them to preach as a candidate. His efficient ministrations aroused the church to a sense of their declension, and revived the dying interests of religion. The record says:

“The Church by reason of many distressing trials being scattered and reduced exceeding low, determine to renew their covenant and reorganize.”

Jonathan Huntington, Ebenezer Fitch, and twelve sisters, were all that remained of the former members. To these were added Mr. King from the church in New Haven, and seven others by profession of faith, forming a church of twenty-two members, of whom seven were men, viz.:

Jonathan Huntington,  
Ebenezer Fitch,  
Walter King,  
Peter Lanman,

Elijah Lathrop,  
Grover L'Hommedieu,  
Jonathan Frisby.

The vote of the society calling Mr. King to the pastorate, stood thirty-five against one. He was ordained May 24, 1787. Sermon by Rev. Charles Backus. Salary £125 per annum, with 40s. added yearly till it amount to £135 per annum, and at that point to remain fixed.

On the division of the town in 1786, only two Congregational societies were left in Norwich proper, which made an alteration of title necessary. Mr. King was therefore ordained over the Second Church instead of the Sixth.

No office seems to have been more irksome than that of collecting the

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\* This is supposed to have been Col. Absalom Peters, of Lebanon, who was at that time a young man giving lessons to the choirs in Norwich as a singing-master.

ministerial rates. In 1785, no less than nine persons were successively chosen to the office of collector, and each refused peremptorily to serve. An incumbent was at last procured by the offer of ten per cent. for collecting. In 1788, fifteen persons of the first distinction in the society agreed to take their chance by lot for the office, each engaging to serve if his name was drawn.

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#### UNIVERSALISM.

In the year 1779, a public debate on the subject of Universalism was held in the Congregational Church at Chelsea, between Mr. Niles and Mr. John Murray, which excited considerable interest at the time.

The doctrine of universal salvation, connected with belief in the Trinity and a purification from sin by a limited degree of punishment in another state, ending in actual pardon and a final restoration to the favor of God, had at that period a considerable number of advocates in Norwich. It was introduced into the town in the year 1772, by Mr. John Murray, the English Universalist, or "Great Promulgator," as he was sometimes styled. He was first invited to preach in Norwich by Mr. Samuel Post, who, having been accidentally present when he delivered an address at Guilford, was charmed with his persuasive oratory. He preached first in the academic building at the foot of Bean Hill, and Mr. Gamaliel Reynolds, the principal exhorter among the Separatists, who held their meetings in that house, became his convert. To accommodate the throngs that came to hear him, the committee of the First Congregational Society permitted their meeting-house to be opened for his use, which Mr. Murray says was never afterward shut against him.\*

His first text in Norwich is said to have been the single word *Shiloh*—Genesis 49:10. But the sermon that excited the most discussion was founded upon the parable of the merchantman seeking goodly pearls. The merchant, he said, represented Christ, and the whole race of mankind were the pearls, whom Christ by the surrender of his life had purchased, and would keep eternally safe.

After Mr. Murray's departure, the Rev. Dr. Lord, fearing, he said, that

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\* The committee of this Society appear to have been almost indiscriminately liberal in the loan of their church to itinerant preachers. Witness the following newspaper item of Nov. 14, 1793:

"On Friday evening last, Mr. John Thayer, Catholic Missionary, delivered to a large audience at the Rev. Joseph Strong's meeting-house in this City, a learned and ingenious discourse in which he undertook to prove that the Catholick Church was the only true Church of Christ. On Sunday evening following at the same place he delivered a discourse on the propriety and true piety of invoking departed saints and the utility and efficacy of addressing prayers to them."



some of his congregation had accepted the mistaken exposition of the "itinerant stranger," took an opportunity to elucidate the same text. The merchant he regarded as the representative of man, seeking happiness, but ignorant of the chief good; when he finds Christ, the pearl of great price, he gives up the world and all its blandishments, and takes the Saviour for his everlasting portion.\*

Mr. Murray subsequently made several annual visits to Norwich, and was allowed to preach in all the churches, but at the Landing he usually occupied the pulpit of the Episcopal church, and it was popularly reported that the Rev. Mr. Tyler coincided with him in the main point that separated him from orthodoxy,—to wit, the final restoration of all mankind to holiness and consequent happiness. Mr. Murray, however, never claimed him as a disciple, but in his notes ranks him with those who had acted toward him the part of Christian friends.

Mr. Niles, who was then the acting minister of the Congregational society in Chelsea, was disposed to examine and discuss the points at issue with Mr. Murray. A public debate was therefore held by the two champions, but with what result does not appear. The sermon of Mr. Niles on the text, "Take heed therefore how ye hear," preached in July, 1778, and published by request of the congregation, was doubtless designed to guard his hearers against the alluring, heart-pleasing doctrine that had been proclaimed among them.

Mr. Murray was a man of wit and humor, fluent in speaking, with the manners of a gentleman. He built up no society in Norwich, but he left an abundance of seed sown, the produce of which might be traced through the whole of that generation.† Many of those, however, who were drawn aside for a time by his fascinations, and entangled as it were in his silken net, ultimately regained their former stand-point. He died at Boston, Sept. 3, 1815, aged 74.‡

In the old part of the town, the Separatist meetings gradually took the form of Universalism. They were held at first in the academy, but afterwards at the house of Mr. Ebenezer Grover. Mr. Reynolds, who acted

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\* This discourse was delivered Sept. 27, 1772: printed by Green & Spooner, Norwich, 1773.

† A Universalist Hymn-Book, published by subscription in 1776, has a list of nearly forty subscribers in Norwich.

‡ Mr. Murray's wife, a very interesting woman, sometimes accompanied him in his visits to Norwich. Lodging at one time with a friend on Chelsea Plain, at breakfast the next morning the lady visitor was not to be found, and the husband could give no account of her. Soon afterward she came in, flushed with exercise, but with wet feet and dripping with dew. She had risen early, and with a child for a guide, had visited the Indian graves, copied inscriptions, explored the ravine to the falls, and wrought herself into a state of lively enthusiasm. Mrs. Murray was authoress of a serial work called the Gleaner, collected in 1798 and published in three volumes.

as their minister without having received any regular ordination or appointment to office, was a man of original strong sense, of powerful frame and imposing appearance, but untaught and illiterate. Mr. Murray said of him,—“He is an honest soul, and we all love him, but he can not yet speak the language of heaven.”

At a later period Mr. Elhanan Winchester, who was born in the vicinity of Norwich and had many warm personal friends in the place, often came hither in his preaching tours, and was allowed the free use of the pulpits, Congregational and Episcopal. The persuasive eloquence of Mr. Winchester, his unblemished life, and the affectionate simplicity of his manners, all operated in his favor. His knowledge of the Scriptures was so minute, and his memory so retentive and amenable to his will, that his friends were accustomed to say if the Bible were to be struck out of existence, Mr. Winchester could replace it from memory.

The last time that he preached in Norwich was in the pulpit of the First Society, Sept. 18, 1794. He died at Hartford in 1797.

Winchester's Lectures on the Prophecies, embodying and explaining the principles he had disseminated in his sermons, were published at Norwich in 1794 and '95. The first two lectures were printed by Trumbull, the remainder by Thomas Hubbard.

Another work of a kindred bias in doctrine was printed at Norwich in 1796. This was “Calvinism Improved,” by Rev. Joseph Huntington, D. D., a native of Norwich, and minister of Coventry, Ct. The work was not published until after the author's decease, but had then an extensive circulation.

Still another work in the same direction, explanatory and defensive of the doctrine of Universal Salvation, was published at Norwich in the year 1815. It was entitled, “The Law and the Gospel clearly demonstrated in Six Sermons.” This work was popularly attributed to the Rev. Mr. Tyler, but not acknowledged by him.

These early developments of Universalism were of the Trinitarian school, and while agreeing with the current orthodoxy in various articles of belief, diverged from it on one important point. They represented the two doctrines of redemption and salvation as co-extensive and equally universal. The question at issue was, How far the efficacy of divine grace extended? Were there any limits to it? Here was the gulf that separated them.



## CHAPTER XXXVII.

### THE WEST INDIA TRADE.

THE Proclamation of Congress announcing a cessation of hostilities between Great Britain and the United States, was published April 11, 1783.

Christopher Leffingwell was the first naval officer of the port of Norwich, under the United States government. He was appointed in 1784. Thomas Coit, collector of the revenue.

The commerce of Norwich shared in the general impulse that the peace gave to maritime pursuits. Her merchants and ship-masters having suffered less by the war than those of more exposed ports, were better prepared for action, and launched at once into the tide of adventure. Yet in reviewing the marine incidents connected with the place, it is not easy to keep the current distinct from the interests and ownerships of other towns that had the same port of entry, and in some instances vessels of similar capacity bearing the same names.

Moreover, Norwich and New London were actually connected in various mercantile partnerships. The cargo of an incoming vessel was often distributed among the merchants of both places, and masters belonging to one port frequently shipped in vessels fitted out from the other. Neither the marine records nor the current newspapers were careful in their discriminations, and it is sometimes very difficult to assign items of intelligence to their right place.

While gathering up the memorials that relate to Norwich, and giving due honor to her merchants and seamen for their enterprise, we do not design to claim that they engrossed more than an honorable share of the industry and activity of the times.\*

The West India trade was an alluring path of adventure. The horses, cattle and alimentary produce of a thriving back country converged at Norwich and sought a market abroad. For the first ten or twelve years after the peace, it met with but few obstacles except those arising from tropical storms or tropical diseases. It was prosecuted with vigor, and was rich in its returns.

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\* The commercial details of this and the following chapter have been gathered from the custom house records at New London, newspaper files, and other contemporary documents.

Most of the voyages of that day were undertaken in vessels of very light burden and small draft. A large proportion of the trade of New England was accomplished in sloops, schooners and brigs, from 35 to 70 or 100 tons burden. Ships,—that is, merchant vessels, ship-rigged, with three masts,—were generally from 100 to 200 tons burden, scarce equaling an ordinary brig of the present day.\*

Live-stock, provisions and lumber were the articles demanded for the West India market. Even flour was then an article of export rather than of import. Considerable wheat was raised in the eastern part of Connecticut, where it is now a very uncertain crop, and less profitable than other grains.

The Norwich vessels seldom took in their live-stock from the wharves. Sheep and swine might however be received directly from the land, or from light craft as they lay in the stream; but horses, oxen and cows were driven to New London, and there taken on board. It was rare for a vessel to carry her deck cargo down the river.

The following table of the exports and imports of Norwich, from Jan. 1, 1788, to March 4, 1789, is taken from the report of the naval officer :

## EXPORTS.

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
549 horses,	value,	12	00	00	6588	00	00
205 mules,	"	15			3075		
205 horned cattle,	"	7			1435		
321 sheep,	"		10		160	10	
566 hogs,	"		15		424	10	
1,903 bbls. beef,	"		40		3806		
1,774 " pork,	"		60		5322		
25,000 lbs. butter,	"			6	625		
92,120 " cheese,	"			4	1535	6	8
6,600 " ham,	"			5	137	10	
16,000 bu. grain,	"		2	6	2000		
175 M. hoops,	"		70		612	10	
160 M. staves,	"		80		640		
14,600 lbs. hayseed,	"			6	365		
586 bbls. potash,	"		5		2880		
25,000 yds. homemade cloth,			2		2500		
631 hhds. flaxseed,			40		1264		
276 tons pressed hay,			60		828		
4 bbls. gingerbread,		5			20		
Total,					£34,218	6	8

\* Six prominent trading vessels, in 1791, owned principally by Joseph Williams, and kept in the West India trade, were of the following tonnage :

Ship Josephus, 228 tons.	Schooner Nabby, 87 tons.
Brig Enterpriser, 130 tons.	Sloop Prosperity, 70 tons.
Snow Federal, 110 tons.	Sloop Negotiator, 70 tons.

The *Snow* was thus described : "This vessel is all Federal ; hull, rigging, sails, and every material manufactured from the produce of America."



## IMPORTS.

			£	s.	d.
European goods, value	-	-	3909		
1,500 hides, " 12s.	-	-	900		
7,675 bu. salt, 1s. 8d.	-	-	639	11	8
112,625 galls. molasses, 1s. 4d.	-	-	7540		
18,300 " rum, 2s. 6d.	-	-	2287	10	
1,271 lbs. bohea tea, 2s.	-	-	127	2	
20,700 " coffee, 1s.	-	-	1045		
417,200 " sugar, -	-	-	8344		
Total,	-	-	£24,793	3	8

Shipping belonging to the port at this time :

Twenty sloops, -	-	-	-	-	940 tons.
Five schooners, -	-	-	-	-	325 "
Five brigs, -	-	-	-	-	545 "
One ship, -	-	-	-	-	200 "
Total,	-	-	-	-	2010 "

No custom-house records of the New London district, prior to the Revolution, are known to be extant. They were either carried away by Duncan Stewart, the last royal collector, in 1776, or more probably destroyed in the conflagration of the town in 1781. The first U. S. Collector under the Federal Constitution, appointed by General Washington, was

## GENERAL JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON.

The coast of Connecticut formed two districts, those of New Haven and New London. The New London district extended from Killingworth to Rhode Island, and included the commerce of the two rivers, Connecticut and Thames. General Huntington immediately relinquished his mercantile concerns in Norwich, and removed to New London, taking possession of his office, as the record states with characteristic accuracy, "August 11th, 1789, 7 o'clock, A. M."\*

The appointments made for Norwich were:—Benajah Leffingwell, guager; Joseph Gale, measurer and weigher.

The regular packets at that time running from Norwich to New York were the Juno, Robert Niles; the Venus, Christopher Vaill; and the Lady Washington, Stephen Culver. The Norwich Packet, Benjamin Culver, plied regularly to Newport, and the Swallow, Zephaniah Jen-

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\* The first vessel entered at the new custom-house was the brig Sally, Capt. Moses Tryon, which arrived that morning from Cape Francois with a cargo of molasses. She was owned by Jeremiah Wadsworth of Hartford.

nings, to Boston. Several other coasting sloops kept the river lively; among them were the Lark, Jonathan Roath; and the Royal Oak, Timothy Parker.

The first clearances from Norwich for a foreign port, under the new collector, August, 1789, were :

Sloop Sally, Frederick Traey, for Martinico.

Sch. Friendship, Absalom Pride, for St. Martins.

Sch. Nabby, Joseph Pierce, for do.

The earliest entries of note were :

Aug. Brig Neptune, Hezekiah Perkins, from Hispaniola.

“ Enterprise, Jerahmeel Williams, with 690 tubs of salt.

The ship Josephus, Elisha Huntington, cleared for Demerara, Sept. 12, 1789. A memorandum of her lading will give a good idea of a West India cargo. Her live-stock consisted of 62 horses and mules, a few cows, a yoke of oxen, and a dozen sheep and swine. Of provisions she carried 4500 bunches of onions, 18 hhds. of potatoes, 86 boxes of cheese, 18 firkins of butter, nearly 80 hhds. of beef and pork, 30 kegs of crackers, 34 bbls. of bread, and 30 bbls. of flour. She had a large amount of brick and lumber, planks, clapboards, staves, joints, and spars; 115 water hogsheads; a lot of parlor furniture, such as mahogany tables, green chairs and sofas, and a few saddles and bridles.

We are struck with astonishment at the quantity of live-stock carried even by the smaller vessels, or sloops, popularly called horse-jockeys, in these voyages. That same season, the Betsey, Jabez Lord, took out 35 horses, and the Nancy, John Fanning, 36. These were small sloops.\*

The brig Neptune, which cleared Oct. 1st for Hispaniola, carried 49 horses. The Enterpriser, Isaac Williams, sailing for Demarara, Nov. 2d, besides provisions, brick, and lumber, carried 20 horses, 17 cattle, 9 mules, 20 sheep, 20 swine, 150 geese, and 100 turkeys.†

The return cargo consisted of rum, molasses, sugar, wine, pimento, pepper, limes, tamarinds, sweetmeats, aniseed, bags of coffee, bales of cotton, tobacco, indigo, and salt.

The trade to the northern coast of South America, especially to Dutch Guiana, was lucrative, and the cargoes brought from thence paid a higher duty than others. As an example of the success and spirit with which

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\* Capt. Isaac Hull was for many years engaged in the West India trade, sailing from New London in the employ of Norwich and New London merchants. In one of his voyages in the ship Minerva, (1798,) he carried 98 oxen on his deck.

† The Enterpriser on her return from this voyage was libeled by the government for importing goods not contained in her manifest, concealing and delivering them at Norwich without a permit, viz., 13 hhds. spirits, 10 bales cotton, 1 bbl. sugar, 1 cask cocoa.



this line of trade was prosecuted, and the risks run, take a horse-jockey sloop of 90 tons burden, called the Prosperity, fitted out by Joseph Williams.

We first notice her on a voyage to Essequibo, in March, 1790, with 38 horses on her deck; Jerahmeel Williams, master. From that time she continued the line for eight or nine years, averaging two voyages per year. At her entry in March, 1792, the duties on her cargo amounted to \$2,446, and in October of the same year, to \$2,747. In one of her trips, (1793,) she carried out 40 mules, 12 horses, 190 sheep, and 25 swine, besides the usual variety of other lading. In 1799, she was taken by one of the belligerent cruisers, found to have contraband goods on board, condemned, and forfeited.

The brig Enterpriser, Hezekiah Freeman, entering from Essequibo in April, 1793, with goods to Joseph Williams and other merchants, paid an import of \$3,241; the highest of any single Norwich cargo before 1796.

The ship-masters were generally part owners of vessel and cargo. A large proportion of the merchants had been sea-captains, and it was no uncommon thing for them to alternate between trading at home and trading at sea,—leaving their business with a partner, and taking command of a vessel to the Islands or to Europe. The names of Backus, Coit, Fitch, Perkins, &c., were borne by persons as familiar with the deck as the counter; with the ports in tropical seas, as with the departments of business at home. In point of fact, it was necessary that the captain of a merchant vessel should not only be an able mariner, but practiced in trade; for he generally carried no supercargo, and transacted all the business of the voyage himself.

Ships owned and chartered from the New London district, during the year 1791:

9 ships, 1 barque, 1 snow, 65 brigantines, 32 schooners, 57 sloops.

Horses, cattle and mules exported, 7,403.

During the year preceding, 7,072.

What proportion of these were from Norwich, we have not the means of ascertaining.

American commerce began to meet with its first serious obstructions in 1793. Ten years of great prosperity had multiplied the merchant vessels till they literally swarmed in the usual routes of trade. From sixty to eighty American vessels were sometimes reported as lying at once in a single port in the West Indies; Cape François, for instance. The richest part of St. Domingo belonged to the French, with the islands of Martinique and Guadaloupe, and the trade to these French colonies was immense. In 1793, nearly 1400 American vessels, with a tonnage of 160,000 tons, were engaged in it. The stern edicts of France and England, the two belligerent powers, fell upon this trade with crushing weight.

American vessels were seized, now by one party and now by the other, carried into port, and there libeled and condemned, the government and the captors sharing the spoils. By far the greater part of these destructive seizures were made by the British; they obtained possession of Martinique and Guadaloupe, and preyed upon American commerce without restraint, condemning every vessel from a French port that carried sugar, cotton, or coffee.\*

Capt. John Fanning, of the brig *Union*, arrived from the West Indies July 10, 1793. He reported that 200 sail of American vessels had entered the harbor of Cape François between the 19th and 23d of June. While Capt. Fanning was there, a terrific battle was fought between the races: whites, mulattoes and negroes struggling for the mastery. The town was plundered and burnt, and it was said that 5000 persons were massacred. Many took refuge in the mountains, and others on board the ships in the harbor. At this period great numbers of refugees from St. Domingo came to the States, seeking an asylum. Norwich had her share of these unfortunate exiles.

In May, 1794, Congress laid an embargo of thirty days duration. A war with Great Britain was seriously apprehended, and a general spirit of arming in defence of the country prevailed. Public meetings were held in all the larger towns and thriving sea-ports of the Union, and patriotic resolutions carried by acclamation. At New London the public meeting was held March 19th. In Norwich the merchants convened on the 18th of April at the house of Elijah Lathrop: Ebenezer Huntington in the chair; Thomas Fanning, clerk; and drafted a memorial to Congress, complaining of British depredations, and urging immediate retaliatory action. This memorial was forwarded to the House of Representatives.

But the storm at this time blew over. The difficulties with England were temporarily settled in November, by Jay's treaty, and American commerce resumed its flourishing course. It was still subject to many vexatious impositions,—to the plundering of French privateers and impressment by British men-of-war,—yet still it prospered. In the West India trade, the most hazardous undertakings were frequently crowned with splendid success. This encouraged enterprise and kept the track lively with adventures for a second period of ten years. Never was any business more exciting. The gain was alluring, but the hazards were great. When a vessel left port often a shuddering fear of the deadly fever of the tropics must have swept through the minds of parting friends.

It is wonderful that in a line of trade attended by such dangers there

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\* Jan. 14, 1794. Capt. Meech, arrived from Cape Nichola Mole, in the schooner *Polly*, reports that all the West India Islands are in possession of the British, except Cape François and Aux Cayes. *Norwich Weekly Register*.



should have been no difficulty in obtaining seamen. Young men were eager for the chance; a crew was always at hand; the love of adventure was stronger than the fear of shipwreck and death, and one of the great parental trials of the day was that the boys of the family were perseveringly bent on going to sea. If a vessel was deficient in her crew, it was only necessary to hang out a signal to that effect from mast-head, and applicants would soon appear to fill the vacancies.

Two successful voyages in a year appears to have been the climax of good fortune in the West India trade. A few instances have been noticed of three entrances or three clearances during the year, but none of three whole voyages with full cargoes in and out. In 1791, the schooner *Chloe*, Jabez Lord, entered 7 March, 15 June, and 3 Oct. In 1793, the brig *Union*, John Fanning, entered 11 March, 11 July, and 7 Dec. The brig *Minerva* accomplished fourteen voyages in a little more than five years, from Feb., 1801, to the spring of 1806: four under Capt. John French, the last seven under Capt. Sangar.

The sloop *Negociator*, James Munsell, sailed with a cargo for the West Indies, June 10, 1798, and returned into port July 30th, having completed her voyage in fifty days. This was noticed at the time as an example of a voyage remarkably short and prosperous. The voyage to or from the islands usually occupied from twelve to thirty days; to or from Demerara, from twenty to forty. The sloop *Swallow* in 1788 was fifty days on her passage from New London to Demerara, having met with opposing winds and heavy storms.

In 1795, a list of vessels and tonnage belonging to the place was made out in order to favor a petition forwarded to government for the establishment of a post-office in Chelsea. The following is a copy of this list, taken from a draft in the hand-writing of Joseph Howland, Esq., than whom no man was better acquainted with the maritime affairs of the place.

“List of Shipping belonging to the port of Norwich, October 12, 1795.

Ship <i>Mercury</i> ,	280 tons.	Brig $\frac{1}{2}$ <i>Sally</i> ,	60 tons.
“ <i>Columbus</i> ,	200 “	“ <i>Betsey</i> ,	90 “
“ <i>Modesty</i> ,	240 “	Schooner <i>Polly</i> ,	90 “
“ <i>Young Eagle</i> ,	200 “	“ <i>Allen</i> ,	85 “
“ <i>George</i> ,	364 “	“ <i>Elizabeth</i> ,	75 “
“ <i>Portland</i> ,	220 “	“ <i>Chloe</i> ,	75 “
“ <i>Charlotte</i> ,	90 “	“ <i>Washington</i>	65 “
Brig <i>Union</i> ,	130 “	Schr. <i>Shetucket</i> ,	70 “
“ <i>Endeavor</i> ,	120 “	<i>Robinson Crusoe</i> ,	120 “
“ <i>Friendship</i> ,	120 “	Schooner <i>Beaver</i> ,	60 “
“ <i>Betsey</i> ,	130 “	“ <i>Jenny</i> ,	70 “
“ <i>Charlestown</i> ,	60 “	Sloop <i>Farmer</i> ,	85 “
“ <i>Polly</i> ,	180 “	“ <i>Crisis</i> ,	72 “
“ <i>Sally</i> ,	180 “	“ <i>Honor</i> ,	65 “

Sloop William,	70 tons.	Sloop Mary,	45 tons.
“ Prosperity,	90 “	“ Hercules,	70 “
“ Polly,	80 “	“ Juno,	55 “
“ Negotiator,	90 “	“ Hunter,	45 “
“ Friendship,	90 “	“ Patty,	35 “
“ Bud,	35 “	“ Nancy,	70 “
“ $\frac{2}{3}$ Betsey,	45 “	“ ———,	65 “

Total seven ships, nine brigs, nine schooners, seventeen sloops=forty-two. Total 4312 tons, of which only 210 tons is owned in the old Parish, and 4102 is owned in the port or what is called Chelsea. The above does not include a number of river packets, or four New York packets.”

When this list was made out, the shipping interest of the port had not reached its maximum of prosperity. Though it had suffered from the annoyances of foreign powers, it was in a condition to bear losses without being crippled in its pursuits. For several years after 1795, the importations increased in value, and larger vessels were employed. Heavy cargoes were brought in from Jeremie, Cape François, and Martinique.

In four successive voyages of the ship Hope, in 1797 and '98, two in each year, three with Elijah Clark, master, and one with Sylvester Bill, bringing rum, molasses, &c., to Howland & Bill, J. Perkins, and B. Coit, the duties were from \$7,000 to nearly \$9,000 each. The cargoes of the ship Sally, at this period, were still more valuable, three in succession paying an impost of more than \$9,000 each.

Probably the highest duty ever paid by Norwich merchants on a single cargo was in October, 1798, when the ship Sally, John L. Boswell, entering from St. Domingo, was charged at the custom-house \$12,121.

After 1800 the trade of the port was less flourishing, yet from twenty to thirty brigs, schooners and coasting sloops or packets were generally kept in active service, and West India cargoes continued to arrive. The three-masted schooner Urania, the brigs Antelope, Atalanta, Dove, Hope, and Harriet, made a series of voyages, with varying success, under John and Thomas Backus, Christopher Colver, George Gilbert, Oliver Fitch, Francis Smith, &c., with goods to Jesse Brown & Son, Peter Lanman, Jabez Perkins, Jabez Huntington, Dwight Ripley, Thomas Lathrop, and others.

The hostile decrees of England and France, though directed mainly against each other, struck heavily upon neutral commerce. From 1803, onward for several years, English ships of war were so numerous in the West Indies that it was scarcely possible for a merchant vessel to enter a port (windward or leeward) without being overhauled. Moreover, French privateers were active; from sixty to seventy American vessels were taken by them and carried into Cuba during the year 1804. They were lurking in retired places, or traversing the more open seas, and it was equally hazardous to seek a market at an island belonging to either of the belligerent



powers, or at the Dutch and Spanish ports on the main. It was a common remark that American commerce was made the prey of all nations.

The risks were often accepted. The merchants, rather than have their vessels idle at the wharves, chose the hazardous alternative of keeping them afloat, and continued to send out their ventures. Advertisements like the following were however becoming rare :

“The beautiful staunch ship *Thames*, Jonathan Lester, will take a freight of thirty horses, cattle or mules, and 400 barrels inboard. Apply to S. Woodbridge or M. Benjamin.” Oct. 7, 1806.

Dr. Dwight, in his travels, written in the early part of the century, says of Norwich :

“Within the last twenty years the trade has suffered severely from several causes ; particularly from fires and French depredations. From the latter source no town within my knowledge has experienced greater losses, in proportion to its trading capital. Its commerce, however, is still considerable.”

In 1808 the embargo was in force, but during the months of May, June and July, *by special permission*, vessels were allowed to depart. Seven brigs and two schooners, belonging to Norwich, took advantage of this license, and cleared, *all for Martinico*.

The trade of Norwich from this period rapidly declined. The mercantile interest ceased to be productive ; many were impoverished by their risks ; the most sanguine were discouraged, and failures were frequent. The following is a sample of an issue less disastrous than that of many of the voyages undertaken at that time.

Arrived in New York, May, 1810, the brig *Sally*, Bingley, of Norwich, 27 days from Antigua. She had been taken by the French, retaken by the English, carried into Antigua, paid one-eighth for salvage and costs, and was then allowed to return home.

In 1811, cargoes of considerable value were brought into Norwich from Cayenne, Demerara, St. Michael, and St. Bartholomew ; in all there were eight or ten arrivals that year, but in 1812 only three entries are found.

26 Feb. arr. slp. *Windham*, John Doane, from St. Bartholomew with goods to D. Ripley, J. H. Strong, T. M. and Joseph Huntington.

19 June, arr. sch. *Harriet*, Alexander Allyn ; goods to D. Lathrop, C. Eells, and Lyman Brewer.

25 June, arr. brig *Park*, Joseph Bingley, from Angustura ; goods to D. Ripley, Augustus Perkins, &c.

These were the last arrivals before the war, and with these the palmy days of the West India trade terminate.

During the six or eight years that preceded the war of 1812, more than a thousand merchant vessels had been captured and carried into British

ports for adjudication, and either wholly confiscated or compelled to pay large sums for salvage or redemption.

But the greatest indignity offered to Americans was the practice of impressment and search which the British claimed and maintained as a right. Many a fine American sailor was clutched and forced into involuntary service on board of a British war vessel in this way. Two instances in which the Norwich marine was compelled to yield a victim to these arrogant demands will be briefly noticed.

In 1797, Avery Tinker of Norwich was impressed from on board the merchant ship *Hope*. At a foreign port he contrived to escape, and ultimately obtained refuge in an American vessel, but on the passage home was accidentally knocked overboard and drowned.

In 1798, Charles, son of Stephen Barker of Norwich, enlisted in the armed schooner *Galiot*, which sailed from New York for some foreign port under Capt. Hudson. On the voyage the schooner was upset in a squall, and the people taken from the wreck by a New York brig bound to Cadiz. They found that port blockaded by an English squadron, the commander of which overhauled the American brig, and impressed the whole of the crew that had been shipwrecked, except Capt. Hudson, transferring them to the *Edgar*, 74.

Several of these seamen were probably never heard from by their relatives. Three years afterward the father of young Barker received a letter from him dated on board the *Edgar* in the Baltic Sea, June 8, 1801. This was shortly after the terrific battle of Copenhagen, of which the writer gave some details, but the burden of his epistle was, that the documents necessary to procure his release should be sent to him, that he might return to his country and his friends. The papers were forwarded, and repeated applications afterward made in his behalf, but in vain.

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The names of vessels are very suggestive. Some of those that we find on the Norwich roll sound well, and are indicative of good taste. Such are, the *Rising Sun*, the *Lady Washington*, the *Young Eagle*, the *Minerva*, the *Ariel*, the *Lark*, the *Olive*, and the *Dove*. Others less euphonious,—*Chloe*, *Nabby*, *Patty*, *Peggy*, *Deborah*, and the like,—were doubtless designed to commemorate familiar names in the families of the owners. The brig *Little Joe*, and the sloop *Little Nat*, refer to two young members of the Howland family. The brig *Josephus* indicates that Joseph Williams, a large ship-owner, was interested in its success. The brig *Essequibo* Packet, and the ship *Stabrœck*, point to the commercial intercourse with Dutch Guiana. *Negotiator*, *Enterpriser*, *Regulator*, give an impression of stability in their owners. The ship “*Three Friends*” probably originated from the amicable relations of three owners, Coit, Lanman and



Huntington. The ship *Eleven Sons*, of this period, owned in New London, and the schooner *Nine Sisters*, belonging to Connecticut river, were probably founded on fact, perpetuating rare instances of household relation.

The schooner *Turn-of-times*, built during the Revolutionary war, indicated the desire of the people for the return of peace; but unfortunately it was captured before that blessed *Turn-of-times* came. One of the flourishing light sloops of New London was aptly named the *Nimble-Ninepence*. This also fell a prey to the enemy.

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Capt. Christopher Colver is now the oldest ship-master in Norwich, and the only one whose voyages reach back to the last century. Capt. Sylvester Bill, of nearly equal age, who commanded the armed ship *Hope* in 1797, died at New York in 1861, aged 91 years.

Capt. Colver is a native of New London, but came to Norwich in 1790, and became master of a ship in 1802. After the war with Great Britain, he went into the European carrying trade, sailing principally from southern ports, and was constantly engaged for nearly thirty years.

In the course of his voyages he has visited all the noted West India ports, and those on the northern coast of South America; the Western and Madeira Islands; Tangier, Cadiz, Gibraltar, Alicant, St. Ubes, Lisbon, Havre, Bayonne, London, Liverpool; several Irish ports, and Archangel in the Arctic ocean. He now enjoys a green old age, furnishing occasional marine reports for the newspapers, and occupying the same house in Franklin street which he purchased in November, 1800. June 8th, 1865, he celebrated his 90th birthday.

## CHAPTER XXXVIII.

### EUROPEAN AND OTHER FOREIGN TRADE.

It has been heretofore observed that the merchants before the war had made direct importations from England. Two or three times in a year, a vessel sent out from this western Thames would accomplish its mission and work its way back again with assorted goods and *the freshest advices from London*. It seems to have been a point of honor to maintain an open communication between these granite hill-sides and the old world.

After the peace was well established, this trade was renewed, but with diminished enterprise. It never became of much note or importance; yet a few notices respecting it having been collected, may be worth preserving as personal incidents connected with the history of the times. They will be introduced here as an episode from the rushing tide of traffic that after the Revolutionary war set with steady current toward the tropics.

The small size of the vessels employed in the European trade, and the length of the voyages, contrasted with the majestic march over the deep of an ocean steamer at the present day, exhibits in strong relief the advantage of steam in facilitating intercourse with Europe.

#### *Memoranda of European Voyages after the Peace of Versailles.*

The brig Hancock, Capt. Hezekiah Perkins, sailed for Amsterdam in April, 1783; left that port on her return, August 18, but meeting with a heavy gale, put back to Deal to repair damages, and came from thence in 48 days, arriving at New London Nov. 4.

In 1784, the brig Ranger, Capt. Robert McKown, made a voyage to London, where she arrived Sept. 24. Outward passage, 44 days; return, 60.

In November of that year, Howland & Coit sent to London "the strong-built double-deck brigantine Little Joe, Gurdon Bill, master."

In 1785, Capt. Bill made two voyages to Europe in the Centurion, a ship of 160 tons, which was afterwards sent to Richmond, and there sold in April, 1786.

Capt. Timothy Parker made several trips to Europe in the brig Katherine. June 19, 1788, he arrived from the Isle of May; July 22, cleared



for Dublin with a cargo of pot and pearl ashes, timber, &c., and arrived again after eight weeks passage, Nov. 15.

Voyages to Liverpool were also made before the year 1790, by Capt. Robert Niles and Capt. John Howland. In 1791, the sloop Success, I. Glover, went on a trading adventure to Copenhagen.

A list of several successive voyages made by Captain Pride in the brigs Charlotte and Friendship, will serve as a fair sample of the nature and amount of the Irish trade at this period.

BRIG CHARLOTTE, ABSALOM PRIDE, JR.

- 1791. Entered from Liverpool 3 Nov : duties on the cargo 464.04.
- 1792. Cleared for Dublin 10 January, with flax-seed, pearl-ash, timber, trunnels, 3½ tons sassafras, and 20 lbs. sarsaparilla.  
Entered, 5 July, with goods to Uriah Tracy, Simeon Thomas, &c. Duties 1186.87.  
Cleared 11 Aug. for Dublin.  
Entered 17 Dec ; duties 577.74.
- 1793. Cleared for Dublin 21 Jan. with 600 lbs. myrtle wax, 20 cords of wood, potash, &c.  
Entered from Liverpool 18 July ; duties 432.57.
- 1794. Entered 10 Feb. after a passage home of 95 days.
- 1795. 25 March cleared for Dublin, brig Friendship, A. Pride Jr. with potash, planks, hides, staves, trunnels and horn-tips.

These notices of lading show what articles found a market in Great Britain. One invoice had among its items 419 tierces of sumach.

In 1796 a small ship was built in Norwich for the Irish trade, called the Ceres. She was commanded by Roswell Roath, and her first voyage was unusually prosperous, being absent only a week over three months, and bringing in a valuable cargo. But in her second or third voyage she was taken 23 days out by a French armed vessel, carried into a French port, and both vessel and cargo condemned.

The Young Eagle was another small ship employed in this trade. She is first noticed as arriving at New London in November, 1793, from Ostend, Elias Lord, master. She came in again under the same commander June 2, 1794, in 53 days from Liverpool, and continued for two or three years longer in this line of trade, Jedidiah Perkins, master.

In 1798 the Irish trade was prosecuted by the brig Neptune, Perkins ; sloop Endeavor, James Harlowe ; and schooner Eliza, B. Freeman. The Neptune in a return voyage was boarded, July 17, by a French privateer of 16 gnns, called the Tiger, and plundered of several bales of dry-goods and crates of crockery. Letters were opened, and other enormities committed. She arrived Sept. 2d, 71 days from Liverpool, with nothing left of her cargo but salt.

In June, 1799, the schooner Victory, Harlowe, from Liverpool, consigned to Thomas Mumford and Jabez Perkins, paid a duty of \$2798.46:

a very large amount, as the charges then ranged on European goods. The schooner *Mary*, Solomon Stewart, came from Liverpool the same season, with goods to Alpheus Dunham, Lathrop & Eells, Ebenezer and Erastus Huntington, and others.

July 15, 1800, arrived ship *Three Friends*, Wm. Coit, Jr., 64 days from Liverpool, with goods to Jabez Huntington, Peter Lanman, and others. In April, 1801, arrived schooner *Eliza*, Benajah Leffingwell, in 65 days from Liverpool.

The brig *Ceres*, so called in remembrance of the lost ship of that name, was built at Norwich in 1804 for the Irish trade, Roswell Roath, commander. Her first voyage was to Cork, from whence she arrived at New York with ten passengers, which was then considered a large company of emigrants, Jan. 25, 1805. She came a few days later to New London, and reported "a tedious passage of 100 days from Newry."

Vessels going to Spain and Portugal carried chiefly provisions and silver dollars; bringing back wines, fruits, brandy, drugs, and silks.

21 Feb. 1794, arrived sloop *Honor*, William Pollard, from Cadiz, with goods consigned to Joseph Howland; duties 159.06. Left at Cadiz, sch. *Patty*, Ames, of Norwich.

28 Oct. 1790, arrived brig *Recovery*, John Webb, from Lisbon with goods to Joseph Williams; duties 500.07.

11 March, 1796, entered from the Isle of May, Portugal, ship *Mercury*, Hezekiah Perkins; duties 851.40.

These examples are sufficient to serve as illustrations of this trade. The brigs *Neptune*, *Atalanta* and *Despatch* were engaged in it. Captains Whiting, Loring and Boswell were popular commanders.

The experience of Norwich ship-masters was often employed in the service of other ports. In 1801, we find Capt. Rockwell at Amsterdam in the ship *Commerce*, and Roswell Roath at London in the *Juliana*, New York vessels. Capt. Tracy commanded the ship *Eugenia* in voyages to Bordeaux. Other instances might be mentioned, and they became more numerous in later years. A New England ship-master, when business at home failed, was sure to find honorable employment either at New York or in some of the southern ports. Moreover the merchants of Norwich, New London, and other ports in Connecticut, were largely interested in New York shipping, and the imports made by them directly were often received via New York.

In planning a commercial adventure, it was not uncommon to combine a fishing voyage with European trade. It saved the drain of silver to pay for imported goods. A license for fishing and a foreign passport were obtained, and the vessel cleared for the cod-fisheries and a market. Several Norwich schooners entered into this line of traffic, particularly between 1802 and 1808.



The schooner *Mechanic*, Capt. Berry, arrived at New London March 5, 1805, in 92 days from Barcelona, with a cargo of brandy to N. Howland and J. Brown; duties \$2198.14. Capt. Berry sailed the next month for "Green Island and Europe," in the brig *Dolphin*.

The *Norwich Courier*, May 1, 1805, gives notice that a fleet of five brigs and schooners had dropped down the river, bound to the Straits of Belleisle on fishing adventures, and that four others were nearly ready to follow. These were the brigs *Hiram*, *Austin*; *Iris*, Chr. Stanton; *Dolphin*, Berry; and the schooners *Betsey*, *Loring*; *Amelia*, *Fitch*; *Thetis*, *Hall*; *Chelsea*, *Doane*; *Jane*, Berry; and the *Mechanic*. These nine vessels were afterward reported safe at Green Island, and a part of them visited the Mediterranean before returning home.

In 1806, the schooner *Jane*, Berry, from the Straits of Belleisle, bound up the Mediterranean, was taken by the English, on pretence of her attempting to go into Cadiz, and sent into Gibraltar, where she was cleared and proceeded on her voyage; arrived late in the season at Boston, 60 days from Alicant.

The ship *Walter*, Lord, was also taken by the British and ordered into Gibraltar, but was retaken by the captain, and went into Cadiz, from whence she returned to New York in safety.

June 6, 1806, arrived brig *Dolphin*, Farewell Coit, 60 days from Alge-siras, with goods to Jesse Brown, Jr., Levi Huntington, and E. Coit & Co., paying a duty of \$6454.10, which we believe to be the highest duty assessed on any one consignment from Europe to Norwich merchants.

The *Dolphin* cleared in May, 1807, Saxton Berry, master, for Green Island and Europe, with license to trade, and came from Alicant in December with goods to Jesse Brown & Son.

But this peculiar line of business soon declined. Other ports were more favorably situated for engaging in the fisheries, and the New England vessels were all more or less annoyed by British competitors, and sometimes driven from the ground.

The commercial interests of Norwich, in their long progress, have been impeded by so many sources of discouragement, that their continued pursuit displays a more than ordinary spirit of enterprise in the community. Unsuccessful investments of talent and capital seem only to lead the way to greater exertions and a more active perseverance.

In 1799, a company was formed for prosecuting the sealing and whaling business. They fitted out the ship *Susannah*, and gave the command to Capt. James Munsell, an enterprising young navigator, who had made several prosperous West India voyages. The *Susannah* sailed from New London Oct. 15, going out under convoy of the U. S. ship *Connecticut*. She spent the next summer in sealing upon the coast of Patagonia, but being at last driven out to sea by heavy gales, she went into the river

La Plata, and from thence to Rio Janeiro, where Capt. Munsell died of the small pox. The ship was subsequently wrecked on the coast of Brazil, and vessel and cargo totally lost. Charles Fitch, the supercargo, and most of the crew returned home in safety.

The schooner Oneco, fitted out by the same company, sailed only a week later than the Susannah. She wintered at the Falkland Islands; took 5000 skins on the coast of Patagonia, ran up the border of Chili to Valparaiso for supplies, and was there seized and confiscated by the Spanish authorities.

The same company purchased the ship Miantonomo, and fitted her for whaling. She sailed 5th September, 1800, under Valentine Swain, Jr., clearing for Canton, with the design of whaling upon the north-west coast of North America, and circumnavigating the globe on the voyage home. She was at St. Mary's, Pacific ocean, in April, 1801, but afterward on the coast of Chili became involved in difficulties with the Spanish authorities, from which she was never extricated. The Mars, sent out by the same company, and commanded by another Captain Swain, met with a similar fate.

These vessels, all nearly new, well fitted, and with officers and crews carefully selected, after clearing at the custom-house, never again appear in our records. Most of the seamen returned, working from one point to another in various ways, but enduring many hardships before they reached home.

In 1798, an attempt was made to establish a direct intercourse with the East Indies. The ship Pacific, Solomon Ingraham, was sent out for the purpose of purchasing goods at Calcutta. She cleared at New London, May 14, "for Madeira and a market," and merely touching at Madeira, arrived at Calcutta in 200 days. She took out no cargo.

The East India trade was then arranged on a different basis from what it is at present. The homeward cargo, consisting chiefly of cotton goods, was paid for in current money. Spanish dollars were therefore carried out as the medium of exchange. Since that period, bales of cotton and bills on London have been used, and the goods imported are saltpetre, indigo, various gums and dyes, &c. Capt. Ingraham sailed from Calcutta on the homeward voyage, March 14, 1799. A few days out, even before leaving Bengal Bay, he was taken by a French privateer, a prize crew sent on board, and the vessel ordered to the Isle of France. Just before reaching that island, a British man-of-war discovered her, and pursued so closely that the French commander ran the craft ashore, and escaped with his crew. The British took the cargo for their prey, and burnt the vessel.

Capt. Ingraham and John Hamilton, supercargo of the Pacific, with several other Americans that had been taken and carried to Mauritius,



left the island in a cartel for Boston to be exchanged. The vessel on nearing the coast encountered a violent gale, and was wrecked upon Cape Cod. Happily no lives were lost, and Capt. Ingraham arrived in Norwich Dec. 24, 1799. We find him in 1800 advertising Chinese and India goods,—Madras long cloths, Pekin and sinchew silks, bandannas, santafours, and Nansouk muslins,—received by the Nancy, another East India ship, in which he had an interest.

Capt. Ingraham afterwards made two or more voyages to the East in the ship Virginia, sailing from New York. He died at Madras, Aug. 15, 1805, in the 40th year of his age.

Two of the sons of Thomas Hubbard, proprietor of the Norwich Courier, were for a considerable period residents in the East Indies. Thomas, the oldest, went to Calcutta in the early part of the century, and obtained a situation as printer, in connection with Dr. Hunter, who was the government printer and director of the Hindostanee press in that city. After his return home, he went into the commission business at Richmond, Va., of the firm of Hubbard & Lyman, but continued his correspondence with the East, and made in all four voyages to Calcutta and two to Batavia. He died at the latter place in 1817, in the 35th year of his age.

Amos H. Hubbard, at a very early age, followed his brother to Calcutta, and arriving there just as the latter left for home, took the place vacated by him in the printing office with Dr. Hunter. When the island of Java was taken by the British in 1811, the government press was removed to Batavia, by order of Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, the English Lieut. Governor. Mr. Hubbard went with it, and Dr. Hunter dying soon afterward, the management of the press devolved upon him. He continued in charge, and printed the "Java Government Gazette," till the island was restored to the Dutch, nearly five years. He returned to this country in 1817, in the ship America, which had been chartered in New York by his order and was furnished by him with its cargo.

A limited amount of trade with European ports, Lisbon, Bilboa, Liverpool, &c., was kept up until broken off by the second war with England. A few more items will be given as specimens.

25 Feb. 1807 : arrived brig Maria, Moses Hillard, 60 days from Lisbon.

May 9 : cleared for Nantz, brig Traveller, Walter Lester ; arrived, on the return voyage, 29 October, 46 days from Bilboa.

In 1809, the ship Stabroek, Charles Rockwell, made a voyage to Cork and Liverpool.

In Jan. 1810, arrived from Liverpool, brig Fox, John Parker, with salt, coal, crates of crockery, &c., consigned to Roger Huntington and E. & E. Huntington ; duties,

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\* Capt. Ingraham married in 1798, Elizabeth, daughter of Andrew Perkins. His house in Norwich was on the Plain, next to that of Rev. Walter King. He left no children. His relict married Capt. John L. Boswell, being his second wife.

\$342.73. The Fox cleared for Cadiz the next July, and returned in November,—42 days passage.

The Chelsea, Chr. Colver, sailed for Alicant in January, 1810, Asa Fitch, passenger. On the return voyage, arrived 17 July, 106 days from Alicant, and 87 from Center, with goods consigned to Peter Lanman, Erastus Coit & Co., and others. The Chelsea sailed again in October, bound to Cadiz, under Farewell Coit.

Aug. 3, 1811, arrived brig Dove, Colver, 63 days from Liverpool, passenger Roger Huntington. The same year Capt. Walter Lester made a voyage to Lisbon in the schooner Betsey, and in April, 1812, the Chelsea, Jonathan Lester, cleared at the custom-house for the same port, returning safely in July.

After Goddard & Williams entered into the flouring business at Norwich Falls, their principal correspondence was with Richmond and other southern ports, but they sent one vessel to Europe, viz., the Ann & Mary, Robert N. Avery, which cleared at New London in November, 1812, with a cargo of flour.

These were the last undertakings before the war. The direct transit to Europe ceased, and no Norwich vessel was again fitted out for that coast till 1833, when the ship Boston was sent to Bremen by Lester & Co.

It has been already noticed that the vessels employed in this trade were of comparatively small capacity and measurement. But at that period the vessels of the larger ports, New York and Boston, were on the same limited scale, insignificant in size and equipment, compared with the princely merchantmen of the present day.

In the advertisements of the old traders, we often find notices of goods received direct from London, Bristol, Dublin, and Liverpool. Examples :

Feb. 17, 1785. Thomas Fanning has just imported direct from London and now opened for sale at his store opposite his dwelling-house between the Town and Landing an assortment of European and India goods.

1787. John Moore has Irish linens and chintzes just from Dublin for sale.

1792. Woodbridge & Snow have for sale "teas direct from China; fresh Bohea, Hyson and Hyson-skin."

1793. Joseph Howland has for sale "Manchester goods direct from the manufacturers."

1800. Jabez Huntington & Co. advertise "salt, nails, crockery, and hardware, direct from Liverpool by the ship Three Friends."

1804. "Peter Lanman Jr. imports from England and keeps for sale, crown glass, hardware, &c."



## CHAPTER XXXIX.

### MEMORANDA OF DISASTERS.

WE have thus far spoken of the trade of Norwich chiefly in respect to its amount and success. It may not be amiss to review the ground, and chronicle a few striking incidents that diversified the scene and gave it a dark side.

In September, 1783, Capt. Azariah Hillard, who sailed from Norwich in August, encountered a hurricane at sea; by which his vessel was over-set, and all on board perished except Joseph Pierce, the mate, who clung to the wreck, and after a fearful experience, was taken off and returned home in safety.

In August, 1785, the sloop *Lydia*, Zachariah Bill, was wrecked in a gale near St. Martin's; the vessel and cargo lost, and one man drowned. In the same gale, two other sloops belonging to Norwich, *St. Mark*, Capt. Rossiter, and the *John*, Capt. White, were driven out to sea, and suffered considerable damage.

March 5, 1786, Capt. Henry Billings in the schooner *Humbird* was cast away at St. Eustatia; vessel and most of the cargo lost.

During the winter of 1787, the schooner *Virgin*, Alpheus Billings, outward bound, was cast away on the coast of Demarara; vessel and cargo lost.

In February, 1788, the brig *Clarissa* came in from Port-au-Prince; her master, William Loring, had died on the passage home, just as they came upon the coast. The vessel touched at Elizabeth Islands, and buried Capt. Loring at Tarpaulin Cove, "that very cold Tuesday," February 5th.

March 24th, Asa Waterman, homeward bound from Port-au-Prince in the brig *Fanny*, was wrecked in a fog upon Narragansett Beach. In November, the sloop *Polly*, C. Cook, was lost at Deer Island on the coast of Maine. The people and part of the lumber saved.

August 22, 1788, the brig *Narcissa* arrived from the coast of Africa, Zachariah Bill late master. Four days from the African coast, Capt. Bill died, and Capt. Mortimer took command, returning home by Demarara and St. Eustatia.

In 1789, disasters were numerous. The sloop *Nancy*, Elias Lord, lost her whole deck-load of stock in a gale. Capt. Hezekiah Perkins, in the brig *Neptune*, bound to Aux Cayes, lost his mainmast and thirty-six horses. In the same gale the ship *Josephus*, E. Huntington, lost main and mizzen mast and nearly fifty head of cattle. In December, advices were received that Capt. John Howland of the schooner *Modesty* (who sailed from New London the last of July) had died at sea, as also his mate, Robert Wattles, Thomas George, a seaman, and Mr. Joshua Pico, merchant of Norwich, who went out with Capt. Howland as a passenger, for his health. During the same season, the whole crew of the sloop *Lively*, of Norwich, with the exception of the master, Capt. Mortimer, died on the African coast, of the deadly malaria to which that region is subject.

In January, 1790, the brig *Friendship*, John Pierce, bound to Aux Cayes, was wrecked on the Isle des Vaches, and totally lost.

The sloop *Negotiator*, Zebadiah Smith, sailed for Demarara, Dec. 7, 1790, and in lat.  $37^{\circ}$  long.  $74^{\circ}$  was struck by a heavy sea, which swept the captain, who stood at the helm, overboard. The accident occurred at midnight, while a furious gale was raging, and nothing could be done by the crew to save their unfortunate commander. The voyage was completed under Nathaniel Barker.\*

In March, 1794, the sloop *Harmony*, of Norwich, was met with at sea, not far from St. Domingo, drifting about, half full of water, with no one on board, her sails gone, and what rigging remained, useless. Apparently her whole crew had perished.

In March, 1795, the brig *Nancy*, Capt. John Webb, with a full cargo of rum and sugar from Jamaica, after touching at New London and taking in several passengers, sailed on the 12th for New York, and that same night was cast away on Eaton's Neck, and vessel and cargo lost. The passengers escaped with difficulty; among them were Dr. Benjamin Butler, a large owner in the vessel and cargo, and his sister, Mrs. Denison.

The ship *Speculator*, J. S. Billings, bound to the West Indies, met with a gale, eighteen days out, in which she broached to, upset, and had all her stock swept away. By cutting away the mizzen mast, she righted and became manageable, but having lost her voyage, she returned into port Nov. 11th.

In 1796, many heavy losses were sustained, both from hostile elements and foreign belligerents. In March, Park Benjamin, in the brig *Nancy*, lost forty-five mules overboard in a gale of wind. Moses Benjamin, in the schooner *Beaver*, lost nineteen horses and two men. On his return

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\* In September, 1792, Capt. Isaac B. Durkee, in the sloop *Betsey*, belonging to Samuel Woodbridge, sailed for Eustatia, and before arriving there, discovered that two of his crew, whom he had shipped at New London, were females.



voyage, Capt. Park Benjamin, having a cargo valued at \$50,000, was carried into Grenada, where he was obliged to pay largely to get cleared, and during the detention, lost his mate and all his people by putrid fever.

The schooner *Chloe*, J. Lord, and the *Crisis*, Cyprian Cook, were overhauled and plundered by the French; the *Lucy*, Gilbert, carried into Guadeloupe, and vessel and cargo condemned.

Jan. 11, 1798, arrived schooner *Fair Lady*, Moses Benjamin, after a dreary passage of 83 days from Demarara. The schooner *Sachem*, Jeremiah Harris, cleared at the custom-house in April, bound to the Mole, but before reaching her port, was stranded on the North Caicus and went to pieces.

Two very striking disasters, in which not the suffering vessels, but those which came to the rescue, were from Norwich, may be allowed a place in our chronicle.

April 6, 1795, the sloop *Prosperity*, Park Benjamin, arrived at New London, 25 days from Essequibo, bringing in also the ship *Polly*, David Baldwin. The *Polly* was 90 days from Demarara. In March, during a furious gale, she lost rudder and sails, and was thrown on her beam ends, which shifted her cargo and stove several hogsheads of rum. She was afterwards driven off the coast seven times, till at last she was met and towed in by Capt. Benjamin.

In November, 1795, the ship *Columbus*, Capt. Lathrop, sailed for Charleston. On the passage she fell in with a schooner from Port Dauphin, bound to Boston, with only one living man on board; the others, five in number, had died of fever, a few days after leaving port. Capt. Lathrop put two of his men on board, and the vessel arrived safely at New London, where she discharged a valuable cargo.

When the British obtained possession of the French Islands in 1794, those American vessels that chanced to be in the harbors were seized and many of them condemned and forfeited. The property of American merchants on the land was likewise in various instances confiscated. From the letter of a ship-master, dated at St. Pierre, March 2, 1794, to his family in Norwich, we give a short extract:

"I have lost all my property by the surrender of St. Pierre to the English. I have not only lost my vessel and cargo, but my wearing apparel, bedding, books, quadrant, and all the money I had to the amount of 1700 dollars. Our friend and neighbor Capt. Fred. Tracy has shared the same fate."

At this time the British commanders on the West India station received orders to seize, detain, and bring to legal adjudication all vessels laden with the produce of French colonies or engaged in carrying supplies to said colonies. This decree and the coincident activity of French privateers made almost a clean sweep of the shipping then abroad. Congress

at the same time laid an embargo upon vessels in port, and for a short space there was a lull in marine affairs. The West India trade, however, soon revived, and was pursued under great hazard and difficulty. Indignities were heaped upon American seamen, and often, when not wholly confiscated, the vessels were ransacked from stem to stern, and plundered of many valuable articles. Of the Norwich marine that suffered in this way, we can only notice a few instances.

Capt. Frederick Tracy, taken by the English and carried into Montserrat, lost a valuable cargo by the decree of the Admiralty Court. Capt. Glover was condemned at St. Kitts. Capt. Gilbert, after being deprived of part of his lading, was released. The French privateers, slipping out of the island ports, and waylaying the customary paths of commerce, caught many a rich prize,—the courts before which the captured vessels were carried, being sure to condemn the cargo as contraband.

Capt. Sangar in the schooner *Chloe* was captured, and he and his people stripped of every article of value, even to the clothing on their persons. The captain himself was set ashore at Lagaira, barefoot. The vessel was afterward released, but at a later period was again captured, Ebenezer Cooley, master, carried into Guadaloupe, and never appeared in our waters afterward.

In February, 1797, Capt. Webb, in a voyage to Jeremie, was taken and carried into Petit Guave, where he was detained ninety days, a quarter of his cargo taken, and he lost all his crew by sickness, except one man.

Capt. Isaac Hull, afterward the veteran hero of the frigate *Constitution*, but then a ship-master in the West India trade, was repeatedly arrested in his voyages by hostile cruisers. He was taken in May, 1797, in the ship *Minerva* of New London, and lost both vessel and cargo. He returned home, and in July started on another voyage in the schooner *Beaver*, of Norwich. He was again captured and carried into Porto Rico, where he was once more condemned.

In March, the brig *Betsey*, J. Lord, was taken by the French, carried into Guadaloupe, tried and released; afterward taken by the English, carried into Tortola, and a second time tried and released.

The *Sally*, Capt. Boswell, bound to Jeremie, with nearly ninety head of stock on board, was taken by the armed brig *Pandure*, of fourteen guns, the privateer firing a broadside before hailing. She took out twenty-one men, nearly the whole crew, and putting eleven Frenchmen in their place, ordered the vessel to a French port. Eight days afterward she was taken by an English brig, carried into a neutral port, and there given up to Capt. Boswell, half her cargo being retained for salvage.

The brig *Hannah*, Park Benjamin, was also twice taken in one voyage, and after some loss and detention, released.



The ship *Young Eagle* (returning from Liverpool in August) sailed Sept. 19 for the West Indies, under Absalom Pride, with no contraband goods whatever on board. She was however taken by a French privateer, carried into port and condemned, solely upon the plea of not being furnished with a *rôle d'équipage*, or registry of the crew. The vessel was however redeemed by Capt. Pride.

The *Charlotte*, Alexander Morgan, in a homeward passage from Demarara, was overhauled by a privateer sloop of four guns from Guadaloupe, and stripped of every thing valuable, even to the charts, books, clothes and cash of the officers. The *Lark*, Gilbert, was boarded and searched by an English twenty-gun frigate, and released, but was afterward twice chased by French privateers, from whom she barely escaped.

In March, 1798, the schooner *Polly*, Smith, was taken by an English vessel near St. Bartholomew, robbed of a negro boy, forty shoats, and \$200 in cash, and then released.

The continuance of these depredations made it imperative for trading vessels either to be furnished with means for self-defence, or to hover under the wing of an armed escort. Early in 1798, the ships *Hope*, E. Clark, and *Sally*, Buswell, were respectively fitted with an armament of fifteen and twelve guns, for the purpose of protecting themselves and others. They dropped down to New London in May, and were soon joined by seven brigs and schooners from Norwich, under Captains Benjamin, L. P. W. Chester, Cook, Gilbert, Lord, Billings, and Winchester, and several other vessels of the New London district, making a respectable West India fleet that sailed under their convoy.

Tropical fevers during this season were intensely virulent. Capt. Boswell of the *Sally* lost eight of his crew. Joseph Lanman, second mate of the *Hope*, died at sea, after leaving the Mole, to return home. These two vessels arrived the 1st of October, crowded with French passengers. The Mole was about to be evacuated, and possession taken by the African General Touissant. A fleet of thirty American vessels left the islands, under convoy of the *Hope* and *Sally*.

It was in August and September of the year 1798, that the yellow fever raged with such fatal severity at New London. All vessels coming up the river were required to lie at quarantine near Bushnell's Cove, under the direction of the Health Committee.

In February, 1799, an action took place off St. Kitts between a French and American frigate; the *Constellation*, Commodore Truxton, captured *L'Insurgente*. A regular war with France was now seriously apprehended, and forcible seizures were made on both sides.

A few more instances of the loss sustained by Norwich adventurers will be given, though not always perhaps in the true order of sequence. From the injuries that fell to the share of one small port, some estimate

may be formed of the ravages perpetrated on the whole American coast, by the belligerent powers, out of fierce indignation at our neutrality.

Most of the seizures were made upon the plea of having contraband goods on board. Horses, one of the most profitable articles sent to the West India market, were contraband.

The schooner *Commerce*, Samuel Freeman, bound to Martinico, was taken by the privateer *L'Esperance*, within an hour's sail of her port, and a prize-master with four men put on board. Capt. Freeman with a part of his crew were left with them. Watching his opportunity, he rose upon his captors, and after an obstinate resistance, in which one man was killed and others wounded, succeeded in retaking the vessel. Capt. Freeman in the conflict received three severe flesh-wounds from a cutlass. Unfortunately the privateer discovered that the *Commerce* was altering her course, and gave chase, compelling the captain at last to run the vessel ashore, among the breakers on the east side of Dominique, where she went to pieces.

In 1799, the West India fleet belonging to Norwich sailed in January. It consisted of the armed ships *Hope*, B. Coit, and *Sally*, John McCarty; the ship *General Lincoln*, E. Lord, J. Kelly supercargo; schooners *Fair Lady*, Benajah Leffingwell, *Friendship*, J. Williams, *Favorite*, B. Paine; sloops *Negociator*, Munsell, and *Prosperity*, J. W. Brewster. Other vessels that had sailed in December, and were then out, were the brig *Bayonne*, Satterlee; schooners *Lark*, Gilbert; *Harriet*, Webb; *Jenny* and *Hannah*, G. Bill; *Chloe*, E. Cooley; and sloops *Despatch* and *Farmer*.

The *Hope* and *Sally* were bound to Barbadoes. They came home by Havana, with rich cargoes, and arrived safely, but the *Sally* had lost half her crew by sickness. The *Hope* sailed once more, in August, under Sylvester Bill, but on her return voyage was captured by a French privateer. The *Hope* had fifteen guns, and the privateer only four, but the French conquered by stratagem. They had eighty men in their vessel, and dressing a part of them in women's apparel, decking the ship with garlands, and filling the air with joyous songs and shouts, they deceived Capt. Bill, who, as they were near the land, took it for a coasting vessel with a pleasure party on board. He was boarded and his deck covered with armed men, before he had opportunity to make any resistance.

The *General Lincoln*, only three days out of New London, in a heavy gale, lost her second mate, Elisha Reynolds, overboard, and had 50 head of stock swept away. She however pursued her voyage, and returned in May with goods consigned to G. L'Homedieu, John Converse, &c. The *Fair Lady* lost, by sickness, the mate, Oliver Barker, and two seamen.

The *Favorite* was arrested by a privateer on her outward voyage, and plundered of all her small stock, cabin stores, furniture, charts, and instru-



ments, and then released. Capt. G. Bill's schooner and the sloop Prosperity were both seized, carried into Guadaloupe, condemned, and forfeited.

1800. The brig Harriot, Francis Smith, in a return voyage from Demarara, was taken and sent into Martinique, but having nothing contraband on board, was liberated, and proceeded on her voyage. Before reaching the coast, she was taken by an English armed vessel and sent into St. Kitts, where she was tried by the court, released, and came from thence in 27 days.

The schooner Fair Lady, J. Williams, was taken by a French armed vessel called "Conquest of Italy." A prize crew were put on board, and she was ordered into a French port. Capt. Williams was detained on board the privateer, which was fortunately soon after captured by the Connecticut sloop-of-war, Capt. Tryon.

The schooner Paragon, Jonathan Lester, captured by the French, was re-captured by the English and taken into an English port. After paying a salvage of one-third of her cargo, and all the costs, she was suffered to proceed on her voyage.

The brig Caroline, Harvey Winchester, was taken, plundered, scuttled, and sunk. The crew were carried to St. Kitts, and there detained for some time as prisoners.

Capt. Leffingwell in the ship Patty, while at Jamaica, had most of his crew prostrated with the yellow fever. Jedidiah Kelley, supercargo of the vessel, and Joshua Walworth, died before leaving the port.

Ship Sally, McCarty, leaving Liverpool with a lading of salt, when just off the harbor, went ashore near the Queen's Dock, and both vessel and cargo were lost, September, 1800.

The brig William, Samuel Freeman, foundered at sea, Sept. 10, 1800. Her stock was swept overboard; she was dismasted, lost her rudder, and in this situation the crew remained ten days, when they were taken off by a Spanish vessel and carried to the South American coast, one man only being lost, viz., William Roath. Capt. Freeman came home from the Bay of Honduras with Capt. Sparrow in the brig Despatch. The wreck was found at sea by one of our vessels, towed into Newport, brought round to the West Chelsea ship-yard, and refitted for new service.

The same season, Capt. Hezekiah Freeman, in the brig Ann, during a violent gale, had all his stock swept overboard,—in sailor language, *sent down as a tribute to Davie Jones*. The brig Favorite, Capt. Brumley, was likewise dismasted.

Capt. Gilbert, in the brig Three Sisters, foundered at sea and lost both vessel and cargo; the crew clinging to the wreck, were at last relieved. Many such disasters occurred in the terrible hurricane season of September, 1800, and similar incidents continue to stream along the current of

West India trade from year to year. We can not follow the list with consecutive detail, or anything like exhaustive accuracy.

1801. The new brig *Resolution*, Alpheus Billings, bound to Demarara, was taken 27 days out and sent to Guadaloupe. The captain and crew were detained several weeks, most of the time in prison, and then sent in a cartel to St. Kitts. They reached home in July.

1803. The brig *William* lost while in the West Indies, Capt. George W. Palmer, master, Samuel Hyers, mate, and three seamen, by sickness.

In July, 1804, four vessels from Norwich cleared at the New London custom-house nearly at the same time :

Brig *William*, John Brown.

“ *Dove*, John McGowty.

“ *Fortune*, Charles Billings.

Schooner *Betsey*, Christopher Colver.

They all sailed before the first of August, and were often within hailing distance or in sight of each other while on the voyage, and one afternoon three of these vessels, the *William*, *Fortune*, and *Betsey*, while sailing in the tropical seas, the air being calm and the ocean smooth, ran along side by side, and the crews called to each other and conversed from the haystacks on deck, where they were eating their supper. That very night a tremendous hurricane swept over those seas, and neither the *William* or the *Fortune* were ever heard from afterward; the destruction being so complete that no memento of their fate was found. But of this hurricane, so narrow was its scope, the only influence that reached Capt. Colver was a magnificent billowy swell of the sea, rolling him on and following him for two days.\*

A monumental inscription in the Chelsea burial-ground shows that the family of Capt. Alpheus Billings had a heavy share in the loss of the *Fortune*.

This monument is erected to the Memory  
of Capt. Charles Billings  
aged 32 years,  
and James F. Billings  
aged 18 years,  
and Benjamin Billings  
aged 15 years,  
Sons of Capt. Alpheus and Mrs. Elizabeth Billings,  
and also of Mr. David Barber,  
a son-in-law aged 26 years,  
Who were lost at sea in September, 1804,  
in the Brig *Fortune*.

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\* These facts are derived from Capt. Colver, who, at the age of 90, in the possession of a good degree of health and mental vigor, is still to be seen almost daily, taking his accustomed walks and lingering upon the wharfage by the river.



Jan. 20, 1804, the sloop *Ruby*, Jonathan Roath, seven days from Norfolk, was wrecked on Block Island. A tempestuous snow-storm raging at the time, and the weather extremely cold, the crew escaped with difficulty. The next day the vessel went to pieces.

Capt. Francis Smith had sailed for several years in the brig *Harriot*, meeting with all the varieties of good and bad fortune. His arrival from one of these voyages, when some apprehension prevailed that the brig was lost, is thus noticed in the *Norwich Courier*, April 11, 1804:

“It is with pleasure we announce the safe arrival of the brig *Harriet*, Capt. Smith, after a passage of 70 days from Demarara, having experienced very heavy gales of wind on the coast, which drove her off nine times and so much damaged her sails and rigging as to render them useless.”

Capt. Smith sailed again in June, and left Demarara on the return voyage Aug. 21st, but on the 5th of September encountered a heavy gale from the south and east, which increased to a hurricane. The next day, while lying to under bare poles, the brig was knocked on her beam ends, and the bowsprit and foremast swept off. By cutting away the mainmast the vessel righted, and the crew succeeded in rigging a jury foremast and a bowsprit. But the sea running high, the vessel leaking, and the spars and rigging all expended, so that they could make no after sail, and meeting for several days only vessels in distress, they abandoned the wreck and took to the boats, and were fortunately relieved by a vessel that landed them in Virginia.

The brig *Ontario*, (Henry Eldridge,) owned by Jesse Brown, Sen., in a homeward voyage from Martinique, was wrecked upon the Elizabeth Islands, March 9, 1805. The crew were saved, but the vessel, with its valuable cargo of sugar, cocoa and coffee, was lost.

In the loss of men from marine pursuits, Norwich suffered less than New London and some other ports, yet her victims were neither few nor far between, as the following mortuary list of a single year, gathered at this distance of time from the scanty memorials extant, will testify:

*Deaths at Sea during the year 1805.*

Isaac Loring, of the brig *Despatch*, at Demarara.

Joseph Brewster, at the same place.

Capt. Jeremiah Harris, aged 35, at Martinique.

William, son of Jesse Brown, do.

William, son of Elkanah Tisdale of Lebanon, do.

Henry Loring, of brig *Iris*, drowned at Green Island.

John Batty, aged 21, of sch. *Mechanic*, at sea.

John Wedge, aged 21, at sea.

John Cary, at sea.

Hezekiah, son of Capt. Daniel Meech, of Preston, aged 22.

Charles E. Trumbull, aged 24, at sea.

Connected with the marine intelligence, during the latter part of the 18th and beginning of the 19th century, frequent allusions are made to the civil conflicts that convulsed several of the islands, and particularly St. Domingo. The following is an instance :

April 14, 1804, a ship from Cape François came into Long Island Sound with 300 men, women and children on board, who had escaped with their lives and came as exiles to this country, leaving their homes to devastation. Capt. Frederick Tracy of Norwich was also on board. He had been for some years engaged in business at the Cape, and fled with the rest at the approach of the ruthless invader. The vessel went into New York.

The most melancholy marine disasters are those which are shrouded in uncertainty. A vessel disappears,—it is heard from no more, and is supposed to have been engulfed by the ocean, but no one returns to relate how and when the catastrophe happened. The hearts of friends are long agonized with alternate hope and dread, while imagination brings up dark pictures of a cruel death from pirates, a wreck upon desert islands, or a wearisome captivity in barbarous lands.

Capt. Z. P. Burnham was a ship-master of many years experience, beginning with 1790. He had retired from the sea to mercantile pursuits, but was persuaded to make one more voyage, and left the coast, bound for Teneriffe, March 10, 1810, after which no tidings of vessel or crew were ever received.\* His fate seemed a duplicate of that of his uncle, whose name he bore,—Capt. Zebulon Perkins having perished before the Revolutionary war, in a similar way.

The same darkness rests upon the fate of Capt. Elisha Leffingwell. He left New London for the Gulf of Mexico in October, 1825, and is supposed to have foundered at sea. He was 47 years of age. His eldest son perished with him, in his 15th year.

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\* Capt. Burnham was about 44 years of age. His relict, the oldest daughter of Elisha Hyde, Esq., second Mayor of the City, born Oct. 11, 1776, is still living, and resides with her son, Elisha Hyde Burnham, at Newstead, N. Y. She has been 65 years a widow.



## CHAPTER XL.

### EMIGRATION.

WE have already adverted to the emigration from New London county to Nova Scotia. A fair proportion of these settlers went from Norwich, but no list of names or families has been obtained.

Several of the first proprietors of the townships of Canaan and Lebanon in New Hampshire were from Norwich and its neighborhood. Lebanon was surveyed in 1761, by a party of seven or eight men who spent the winter there in a temporary hut reared in the wilderness, laying out farms and clearing the way for regular habitations. Lands in this northern province were at first purchased on speculation. Andrew Perkins, among others, obtained the title to large tracts in Canaan, Hanover, and Cardigan. These proprietors sold out in smaller sections or farms to actual settlers. Chapman, Harris, Hyde, Lathrop, Post, Tracy, and other names indigenous to the Nine-miles-square, were transplanted to parts of New Hampshire and Vermont at various periods between 1760 and 1800.

Norwich in Vermont owes its name to the retrospective tenderness of some of these emigrants for their former home. Capt. Jedidiah Hyde gave name to Hyde Park in Vermont.

Elisha Tracy, about the year 1790, was largely interested in the purchase and sale of lands in the neighborhood of Chelsea, Vt. Several families from Norwich removed thither, and probably gave the name of Chelsea to the place.

Norwich in Massachusetts, settled a few years before the Revolution, also testifies by its name to the original home of some of its most conspicuous founders. The first Congregational minister was Rev. Stephen Tracy, a native of our Norwich. John Kirtland, a useful and influential member of the young community, went from Newent society.

The Wyoming valley of Pennsylvania collected a quota of its early inhabitants from Norwich. This fine tract of land, twenty miles in length and three in breadth, with the noble Susquehanna winding through it was in ancient times the favorite seat of the Delaware tribe of Indians. Connecticut claimed the jurisdiction, as it lay within the bounds of her orig-

inal charter, and the natives having become few and scattered, two companies were formed for the purchase, exploration and settlement of the country.

The Susquehanna Company, which was organized at Windham in 1753,\* consisted of several hundred subscribers. This Company made the Wyoming purchase of the Six Nations, at a council held at Albany in 1754. The Delaware Company purchased a tract east of this, extending to the Delaware river.

The first settlements at Wyoming were broken up and a part of the emigrants slaughtered by the Pennamites, or settlers under the claim of Pennsylvania. It is not known that any of these first adventurers were from Norwich.

In 1768, five townships were laid out, and each granted to forty persons who engaged "to man their rights," that is, make actual settlements upon them. These were afterwards named Wilkesbarre, Hanover, Kingston, (at first called *Forty-town*,) Plymouth, and Pittston, comprising the heart of the valley. To settle these towns, a large emigration went from Connecticut. Among the leading men were Zebulon Butler from Lyme, Nathan Denison from Stonington, and John Durkee from Norwich,—each accompanied by a party gathered from his neighborhood.

These measures, so far as Norwich was interested, were the result of individual enterprise. The only allusion to the western lands, on the town records, is the following:

Sept. 12, 1769. Voted to apply for a grant of 20 miles square of the Colony lands lying west of, and adjoining to, the Susquehannah Purchase with ample right to purchase the native right to said lands.—Samuel Huntington to act as agent.

The pioneers to these western wilds encountered great obstacles, and were so repeatedly broken up, or harrassed by the Pennamites, that a few were discouraged and returned to their old homes, but the greater part remained firm at their posts, and at length obtained quiet possession of the country.

The several Connecticut colonies thus established at Wyoming, were organized March 2, 1770, into one town, or district, called Westmoreland, and attached to Litchfield county. It remained for eight or nine years under the jurisdiction of Connecticut; deriving its laws from the colony, and sending representatives to its assembly. Before 1775, it contained 2,000 inhabitants.

On the monument in Wyoming, erected in memory of the victims of Indian and tory cruelty in the fatal attack of July 3, 1778, the names of Durkee, Ransom, Waterman, Avery, Crocker, Hammond, Marshall,

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\* Miner's History of Wyoming.



Palmer, Reynolds, and others, indicate their origin, and remind us of our ancient towns-people.\*

The original proprietors of Warwick and Bedford in Pennsylvania were from Norwich. The former of these towns was surveyed by Zachariah Lathrop in 1773.

The committee of the first and second Delaware purchases were Ebenezer Baldwin, Jabez Fitch, Joseph Griswold, Isaac Tracy, Elisha Tracy, Nehemiah Waterman, and Dudley Woodbridge, all of Norwich. Azariah Lathrop was a large proprietor of the township of Huntington, in the first Delaware purchase.

The Wyoming settlements were devastated and almost destroyed during the Revolutionary war, and remained for a long period in a disturbed and hazardous condition. Various companies and different races of men struggled for several years with one another and with the wolves, panthers, and poisonous serpents, for the possession of this fertile valley.

From 1795 to 1800, there existed in Connecticut a mania for emigration. The reports of explorers and the letters written home by pioneers, while they spoke of innumerable hardships and privations, only increased the thirst for adventure. Yet emigration at this period was a serious undertaking, and friend bade adieu to friend with almost as much solemnity as at the gates of another world. To say of one, "He has removed to the Susquehannah country,"—"Started for Muskingum,"—"Gone to the Genesees,"—were vague and mysterious announcements, almost equivalent to a departure for another planet. But still the romance of the enterprise threw a veil over its discomforts.

Elisha Hyde and Elisha Tracy were largely interested in the Susquehannah purchase, and made several visits to the country for the sale and survey of lands. Andrew Tracy, secretary of the Delaware Company, sold his farm and his mills and dwelling-house on Bean Hill, and removed in 1798. Other emigrants to Luzerne, of that early period, were Colonel Eleazar Blackman and John Robinson of Lebanon, Jabez Hyde of Franklin, and Andrew Beaumont of Bozrah.

A considerable company went with Col. Ezekiel Hyde in 1799, and established themselves at Rindan on the Wyalusing. Enoch Reynolds opened the first assortment of goods at that place. He was afterward an officer of the Treasury Department at Washington. Lathrops, Birchards and other Norwich families settled upon the Wyalusing and at Ruby.

Capt. Peleg Tracy and his brother Leonard, and Capt. Joseph Chapman, a revolutionary patriot and ship-master, were men of note and influence among the emigrants.

Even the women that belonged to these parties were sustained above fear and discouragement by a spirit of chivalric determination. Lydia

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\* Peck's Wyoming, p. 385.

Chapman, a daughter of Capt. Joseph, went out in the year 1800, with her younger brothers, to join her father. She was the only female in a considerable party of emigrants, and was sixteen days on the journey, in the variable, damp, restless atmosphere of a February without snow. Not a murmur escaped her, and her noble patience and cheerful hope animated and sustained her companions. She afterwards married a Norwich emigrant, G. W. Trott, a physician of Wilkesbarre.\* Her brothers, Isaac A. and Edward Chapman, were men of more than common talent. Edward, though he died young, had exhibited proofs of poetical genius. He is the author of the well-known song,—

“Columbia’s shores are wild and wide.”

From this brief survey of the Wyoming emigrants the name of Charles Miner must not be omitted. Born under the shadow of Meeting-house Hill, Feb. 1, 1780; the son of a revolutionary soldier, educated at the Lathrop school on the Plain; social in disposition, with a vigorous, inquiring mind, he carried with him to Wyoming and ever retained a vivid impression of what Norwich was at the beginning of the century.†

He learned the printer’s trade with Col. Samuel Green in the Gazette office at New London, and after his settlement in Pennsylvania, united with his brother Asher, who had preceded him in emigrating to the Wyoming valley, in publishing the “Lucerne County Federalist.” This paper, which they established in Wilkesbarre in 1801, was continued for thirteen years. Mr. Chas. Miner was afterward editor of “The Gleaner,” and still later of the “Village Record,” published at Westchester. The Gleaner was enriched with a series of discursive essays, “From the Desk of Poor Robert the Scribe,” which came from Mr. Miner’s pen. He is also the author of an interesting History of Wyoming, published at Philadelphia in 1845, and was a member of Congress from Westchester district from 1825 to 1829.‡

Several parts of Ohio, even before 1790, were sprinkled over with names familiar to this neighborhood, viz., Adgate, Armstrong, Hartshorn, Kinsman, Kingsbury, Leffingwell, Perkins, Tracy. Marietta in her beginning obtained some of her most efficient settlers from Norwich. Dud-

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\* The wife of the Hon. G. W. Woodward is their daughter and only child.

† See Letter of Charles Miner in Appendix to Norwich Jubilee, for a graphic sketch of Norwich *up-town*. Mr. Miner visited Norwich in 1839, with his son. The old dwelling-house in which he had been reared was gone, but he went up the hill on the slope of which it had stood, saying *he must look for the Brown Thrasher’s nest that he left there*.

‡ While this work has been going through the press, his death has been announced. “Hon. Charles Miner died at Wilkesbarre, Oct. 26th, 1865, in the 86th year of his age.”



ley Woodbridge went thither in 1788, and though afterward returning for a season, removed with his family in 1794.\* Elijah Backus was another early inhabitant of note and influence, who went from Norwich.

The beautiful town of Norwich in Chenango county, N. Y., is another place to which our Norwich between the rivers stood sponsor. Preston in the same county joins Norwich, and was originally a part of it, acting over again the old neighborhood of our Norwich and Preston. Oxford, also in Chenango county, derived some of its founders from the same fountain-head. Dr. Benjamin Butler in the year 1800 advertised twenty farms for sale within two or three miles of Oxford court-house.

In May, 1798, a vessel sailed from Stonington for Albany, with families gathered from neighboring towns, that were on the way to found new homes in the Unadilla region.

The pleasure and convenience of keeping up an intercourse between these emigrants to the West and the friends and possessions left behind, led to the inauguration of a peculiar species of vehicle, viz.:

#### HARTSHORN'S STAGE-WAGON.

This was a ponderous house-like machine on wheels, drawn by six horses, which made six or eight regular trips per year to Chemung, German Flats, &c., carrying passengers, letters, and freight. Its arrival at Franklin and Norwich was hailed with enthusiasm, as it was sure to bring intelligence from distant friends. The letters sent home were filled with interesting narratives of hardships endured and dangers encountered, with many a cheering episode relating to jovial parties and rural pastimes.†

The Western Reserve, called also New Connecticut, was a territory belonging to the State of Connecticut, which lay on Lake Erie, west of Pennsylvania. It contained three millions of acres. The Fire-Lands, comprising the western portion of 500,000 acres, had been granted by the State to those towns in Connecticut which suffered from the torch of the enemy during the Revolutionary war. In 1786 the General Assembly passed an act to survey and dispose of the remainder of the territory. Hon. Benjamin Huntington of Norwich was one of the three commission-

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\* He died at Marietta, in 1823, at the age of 76. His children were all natives of Norwich. Dudley, the oldest son, died at Marietta in 1853. The second son, Hon. Wm. Woodbridge of Detroit, was Governor of Michigan in 1839, and U. S. Senator from 1841 to 1847.

† The Norwich Packet published an account of a terrific combat between four men and a bear, which took place June 6th, 1797, at *Norwich, the 16th township on the Unadilla river*. The four men were Doctor Dan Foote, Enoch Marvin and his son, and a hired man. Three of them were badly wounded, but the animal was finally conquered, and weighed when dressed, 260 lbs.

ers appointed for this business. In 1795, it was sold to a Land Company organized for this object, and under their management the whole three millions of acres, then an almost unbroken wilderness, was surveyed and distributed into townships and farms, and offered to settlers on easy terms. This territory now forms a tier of counties in the northern part of Ohio. The settlement commenced in 1796.

General Joseph Williams of Norwich was a prominent member of this Land Company. Daniel L. Coit, another of the original purchasers, devoted time, labor, means and influence to promote the settlement of the country, and made repeated visits thither, undismayed by the long and wearisome journey. Among the new towns founded, Williamsfield and Coitsville perpetuate the names of these patrons.

Wheeler W. Williams, who went from Norwich, built in 1799, with his partner, Major Wyatt, the first grist-mill and saw-mill in the Western Reserve. A greater benefit could scarcely have been conferred upon this new country at that time. The towns of Norwich, Huntington, Kinsman and Kirtland, in this range of territory, indicate by their names the origin of some of their first settlers. Col. Simon Perkins of Lisbon, a Revolutionary officer, removed with his family to Warren, Ohio.

The Hon. Samuel Huntington, one of the most distinguished of these emigrants to the Western Reserve, left Norwich with his family in May, 1801, and settled first at Cleveland, but afterwards at Painesville, where his children and descendants still reside. The new country found in him a useful and efficient magistrate. He was Colonel of the militia, Judge of the Supreme Court, and Governor of the State from 1808 to 1810. He held also a great variety of other offices, by which he promoted the public welfare, and merits the honor of being reckoned among the founders of Ohio. He died at Painesville, June 8, 1817, aged 49.

The first settlements upon these wild lands were made by small bodies of emigrants, scattered at considerable distances from each other, some amid dense woods, and others near the Indian borders. Consequently they suffered much from the horrors of the wilderness, as well as for want of food and clothing. Wonderful were the accounts occasionally received concerning their hardships and adventures; more thrilling even than the first experience of the early settlers at Wyoming.\* Governor Huntington, while riding through the woods, was attacked by a pack of wolves,

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\* The following incident was related in a letter sent home by a family that had removed to the banks of the Muskingum. Two young women who had newly arrived in the settlement, were out gathering berries. They had never heard the war-whoop, and a young man who was their companion proposed to amuse them with a sample. He had no sooner uttered the terrible cry, than to their great consternation it was answered by another whoop, prolonged and loud, from a distant hill, and a moment afterward by still another from the depth of the forest. The affrighted party hastened back to the protection of their fort.



from which he only escaped by the fleetness of his horse. A party of young people gathering berries near the Muskingum, suddenly alarmed by sounds of the war-whoop rising from the thickets near them, retreated in wild dismay to the protection of their fort. A cabin was buried by the snow, and three days elapsed before the family was extricated. A boy kidnapped by the Indians, had become almost a man before he was released. The tomahawk and scalping-knife, savage beasts and deadly serpents, figured largely in these tales.

## CHAPTER XLI.

MISCELLANIES. BEAN HILL. THE TOWN PLOT. BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

AFTER the Revolutionary war, and onward into the next century, the Town-plot or First Society continued to be the center of influence and activity, resonant with the hum of business and the clamor of mechanical operations. Upon Bean Hill, Witter's and Hyde's taverns displayed their signs, and several flourishing stands of dry-goods and groceries, offered for sale by Daniel Rodman, Col. Rogers, Samuel Woodbridge, &c., kept the platform lively with shopping and social activity. Here also, in a bend of the Yantic, a saw-mill, grist-mill and oil-mill were grouped together and known as Tracy's mills, but sold by the proprietor, Andrew Tracy, upon his removal to Pennsylvania in 1798, to Hyde & Hosmer. Capt. Joseph Hosmer, of this firm, died in 1805.

Samuel Woodbridge was afterward of the firm of Woodbridge & Snow, at the Landing. The old stand on Bean Hill, where he and his father-in-law, Col. Rogers, had traded, was advertised for sale several years later, with this brief recommendation,—*Money has been made there, and can be again.*

Aaron Cleveland, a man of wonderful versatility of talent, was another noted dweller upon the hill. He carried on the hat business, but at the same time wrote poems, essays, lectures and sermons upon all the prominent subjects of the day, social, political, and religious. His speeches in public and his private harangues, his exhortations at meetings and his stirring articles in the newspapers, were always thrown in to swell the current in favor of religious truth and human freedom.

The Hydcs and Huntingtons of Bean Hill, with a sprinkling of Watermans and Tracys, were sufficient of themselves to form a community. Capt. James Hyde, born in 1707, had a family of five sons and one daughter. One of the sons was the Rev. Simeon Hyde, who settled in the ministry at Deerfield, N. J. The others, Ebenezer, James, Eliab, and Abial, with the daughter Abiah, who married Aaron Cleveland, occupied neighboring homesteads, and are all well remembered by many now on the stage of life. The father lived to be 87, with these four sons quietly flourishing around him,—blameless men, and excellent citizens. None of them emigrated; all lived into the present century, and all lie buried in Norwich.



The four Huntington brothers, sons of Dea. Simon, were also dwellers upon the hill, or on neighboring farms, and have a similar history. Far different has it been with the children of these grave householders. As they grew up to manhood, they took wing and flew away to other boweries, and the descendants are scattered from the Atlantic to the Mississippi. Erastus, the youngest of the Huntington brothers, had nine sons; six of these removed to Cincinnati.

The descendants of those energetic ship-masters, Jared and Frederick Tracy, in like manner, leaving Norwich in their youth, may be traced to many varied scenes of active business life: to Vermont, Utica, Whitesboro, Boston, New York, St. Louis, New Orleans, and Porto Rico.

Capt. Arunah Waterman and his three sons, Thomas, Azariah, and Joseph, removed with their families, about the year 1801, to Johnson, Vermont.

Descendants of Ebenezer Thomas, (who came from Duxbury and settled in the town-plot about 1730,) may likewise be traced to far distant homes in the west and south.\*

Before leaving this district, we would notice that Miron Winslow opened a retail store on Bean Hill in June, 1811. This was the Rev. Dr. Winslow, missionary for forty-five years in Ceylon and Madras, who resided in Norwich a few years before entering into the service of the American Board, and was here married to his first wife, Harriet W. Lathrop, a native of the place, Jan. 11, 1819.

The town green, with its meeting-house, court-house, post-office, jail, flag-staff or liberty-tree, three taverns, and four or five stores, was the center where all the excitements of the town culminated. The principal traders were John Perit,† Gardner Carpenter, and Dudley Woodbridge.‡ The last-mentioned,—“next door east of the meeting-house,”—was succeeded in 1793 by Carew & Huntington, the firm changing in 1800 to Joseph & C. P. Huntington. On or near the green were also two printing-offices, each with a book-shop and bindery annexed, and each issuing a weekly newspaper. One of these establishments (Hubbard's) was re-

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\* Edward Thomas, a grandson of Ebenezer, born at Norwich in 1793, has been for the last forty years a resident in Augusta, Ga.

† Mr. Perit came to Norwich in 1771, and here his two sons, John W. Perit, for many years a merchant of Philadelphia, engaged in the China trade, and Pelatiah Perit, late President of the New York Chamber of Commerce, were born. Mr. Perit removed to Philadelphia in 1790.

‡ Dudley and Samuel Woodbridge were sons of Dr. Dudley Woodbridge of Stonington. The two brothers settled in Norwich about 1770, and married into the families of Elijah Baekus and Zabdiel Rogers. Their mother, Mrs. Sarah Woodbridge, died on Bean Hill in 1796. Dudley removed to Marietta, and there died in 1823, aged 76. The children of both the brothers,—Dudley had six, and Samuel nine,—were born in Norwich.

moved to Chelsea in 1798. Simon Carew had also a book-shop and bindery near the green.

Further east in the town-plot were the firms of Samuel Huntington, nephew of the Governor, who removed to Ohio in 1801; of Andrew & Zachariah Huntington, Avery & Tracy, Coit & Lathrop, Lathrop & Eells, Christopher Leffingwell & Son, (succeeded in 1801 by Joseph H. Strong,) Tracy & Coit;\* and near Chelsea Plain, Thomas Fanning. In short, retail stores and workshops dotted the whole way from Bean Hill to Chelsea. Twenty trades are said to have been in thriving operation on the town street. Leffingwell's Row, built after 1790, originally comprised six or eight tenements, all occupied by mechanics. Harland's watch-factory was a noted establishment. Capt. Timothy Lester, an ingenious mechanic of this neighborhood, possessed a native bent for the mechanic arts, and was skillful in reducing principles to practical tests. He constructed the model of a new machine to be used in the hemp manufacture, which was patented and found to be of great use in its peculiar sphere.† In 1790, Dr. Joshua Lathrop commenced the cotton manufacture in a building near his store, setting in operation six jennies, six looms, and a carding-machine. To use the words of one who was himself a part of what he described,—“Norwich up-town was a bee-hive.”‡

Lathrop's tavern on the Green had an assembly-room where public festivities were held, such as anniversaries, balls, and dinners.

Peck's tavern on the other side of the Green was overshadowed by a large elm tree, among whose central boughs an arbor was formed and seats arranged, to which, on public days, friendly groups resorted and had refreshments served,—a plank gallery being extended from a window of the house to the bower, as a means of access.

Brown's hotel was famous for good dinners, and was patronized by gentlemen boarders. Merchants from the West Indies came there at intervals, and were always ready for excursions and out-door amusements.§

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\* This firm began in 1780, and continued without change twenty-five years. The partners were Uriah Traey and Joseph Coit. No descendants of either of these men now remain. Mr. Coit was never married, and the only son of Mr. Traey died in 1834 without posterity.

† Capt. Lester died Aug. 20, 1810, aged 42.

‡ Charles Miner of Wilkesbarre.

§ Jesse Brown, in the early part of the Revolutionary war, was in the service of the State as an express agent and confidential messenger. Before the conclusion of the war he built his house on the Plain, next to that of Dudley Woodbridge, and occupied it for many years as a hotel. It is now the residence of Mr. Moses Piercc, but the building has been repeatedly varied and improved, till it retains but a slight resemblance to the old hotel.

Mr. Vernett, who married the daughter of Mr. Brown, introduced into the garden of this house, about the year 1809, a species of grape not before cultivated in this



Many a gallant hunting-party with hounds and servants started from the town-plot in those days.

President Adams was accustomed to stop at Norwich on his journeys to and from the seat of government, and his arrival always drew forth some lively exhibition of respect. The *Norwich Packet* informs us that on Wednesday evening, Aug. 1, 1797, John Adams and lady arrived in town. "The matross company came out to welcome them in full uniform, and fired a federal salute of 16 guns. They proceeded the next day to Providence, a large company on horseback attending them out of town."

Mr. Brown was also a stage contractor. The communication with Boston was three times a week, the stage arriving on Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday. On Sunday, it came by way of Providence and New London, leaving the latter place at 8 o'clock A. M., and arriving at Norwich Green about noon,—the stage-horn often sounding just as the audience issued from the church after morning service. This indicates a phase of public opinion different from that of 1720, when the Rogerenes were arrested for traveling on the Sabbath.\*

Several merchants in the town-plot were at this period actively engaged in the purchase of horses, cattle, and country produce. Drove of horses and mules, and all the bustle of loaded teams and lowing herds, trampling out the grass and blocking up the ways, were spectacles of fréquent occurrence in those streets, which for the last half-century have been distinguished only for rural beauty and quiet comfort.

The town-plot was not only the center of business, but also of fashion and gaiety. Bean Hill had its grand society. Lord Bellasize, an English nobleman, rusticated for a season on the hill, and though mingling but little with the inhabitants, contributed to the spectacles of the town by driving about in a handsome chariot with black servants in livery, and rousing the country echoes by fox-hunting.

Of the causes which led this nobleman into temporary seclusion in America, his neighbors were ignorant. An advertisement in the *Norwich Packet* gives us a memento of his residence here.

region. It was propagated from this vine into other gardens, was highly prized, and popularly called the Vernet grape. It is not known where Mr. Vernet obtained it, but it is supposed to be identical with the Isabella. The original vine planted by Mr. Vernet still flourishes where it was set, and bears well, though upwards of fifty years old.

Mr. Brown removed with the Vernet family to Wilkesbarre, Penn., where he died in January, 1816, aged 63.

\* The desecration was not however allowed without protest. In June, 1799, Joshua Lathrop and others sent a memorial to the Legislature, asking for a prohibitory act against the running of the stages on the Sabbath; but the committee to whom the petition was referred, reported that the existing laws, if duly executed, were sufficient to remedy the evil.

Ran away from the subscriber a negro servant named Jean Louis. Whoever will take up said Negro and return him to his master shall have one cent reward, but no charges paid. All persons are forbid trusting him on account of the subscriber.

BELASIZE.

Norwich, June 30, 1798.

These sources of excitement and interest, with the popularity of the schools, the residence of the governor, the frequent visits of public functionaries, and the prevalence of social dinners and tea-parties, made *Bean Hill*, the *Meeting-House Green*, and *Round the Square*, the brilliant part of the town.\*

It is remarkable that so much gaiety, excitement and social enjoyment should have existed in conjunction with early hours, industrious habits, moderate expenditure, and strict propriety of manners. The noon-bell and the evening-bell still retained their authority. Twelve o'clock summoned families to the dinner-table, and nine o'clock sent them to repose.

Samuel Trumbull established a circulating library about the year 1793, which was gradually increased to 420 volumes, comprising the popular reading of the day, plays, novels, travels, essays, histories, sermons. Mr. Trumbull removed subsequently to Stonington Point, where, in September, 1798, he issued the first number of a weekly newspaper called "A Journal of the Times."

The success of his library led the way to a collection of more solid works. In 1796, a committee of the citizens of the town-plot organized a Library Association. A subscription was taken up, and 250 volumes selected from the choicest stores of English literature, were purchased for a beginning.

This library continued in operation about forty years, and though never much enlarged beyond the original stock, circulated thoroughly among the steady-habited residents of the old part of the town, contributing to the intellectual culture of the young and the refreshment of more mature minds.

In 1797, John and Consider Sterry were book-sellers and book-binders. These men were brothers, both of marked intellect and good executive capacity, the one devoting his leisure moments to the duties of a Baptist elder, and the other to the improvement of the method of taking lunar observations. They soon added to their establishment a marble paper manufactory and the publication of a newspaper, viz., "The True Republican," first issued in 1804.

Norwich was at this time favored in her physicians. Dr. Jonathan Marsh, who died in 1798, was not only a successful bone-setter, but skill-

\* Advertisement in the Norwich Packet, 1791 :

"The Ladies and Gentlemen of Norwich are informed that the Theatre will be opened at the Court House this evening with the tragedy of Douglas."



ful in other cases of surgery, and according to cotemporary authority, "ever ready to exercise his skill for the relief of the distressed and the destitute."

Doctors Philip Turner and Philemon Tracy were men of high professional merit, the one more particularly valued in cases of surgery, and the other in those of disease. They had generally some young student under their instruction, visiting and practising with them. Dr. John Turner was a worthy pupil and successor of his father. Another son, William Pitt Turner, also a surgeon by profession, was one of those sportive and original characters that give a lively zest to the social circle. The professional circular of Benjamin Butler, M. D., issued in 1787, announces that he had been "regularly educated by the learned Doctor Philip Turner in the sciences of Physick and Surgery."

The Turner house in Norwich stood against a back-ground of rocks, overshadowed with trees. The office near by was one of the noted localities of the place, regarded by children with a kind of shivering admiration, as containing a secret closet, where an anatomy known as *old Jock's bones* was kept, and winning the attention of travelers by its *sign* on which was painted a picture of the Good Samaritan raising up the wounded man while the Priest and Levite passed on with averted eyes.\*

The principal students of Dr. Tracy were Asher and Abel Huntington, brothers,—the former settling in Chenango county, N. Y., and the latter at East Hampton, L. I.; Benajah P. Bailey of Griswold; Peter Allen, who emigrated to Ohio; and Richard P. Tracy, the son of the practitioner, now and for forty years past a physician in Norwich-town. The professional life of the three Tracys, father, son, and grandson, covers a period of one hundred and twenty-three years, all passed in the same parish: an instance of stability not common among a people so restless and excitable as the Americans.

The town was indebted for various public improvements to the influence and liberality of Dr. Joshua Lathrop and Capt. William Hubbard. They were particularly instrumental in opening streets and improving the highways both of town and landing. The former gave at one time \$300 to be laid out on the road around the north side of the central plot, while Capt. Hubbard caused the old pathway through the grove to be widened and cleared of rocks and incumbering trees.

Tradition depicts the wild beauty of this ancient lane in such vivid colors that we are almost led to regret the improvement. It was a winding cart-path along the river-bank, overarched with lofty trees and crossed by a rapid stream, where the teamsters paused in a hot summer's day to

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\* At the bi-centennial gathering in 1859, this old sign was exhibited, and also a powder-horn engraved with figures of beasts and birds and bearing this inscription:

"Doct. Philip Turner. His horn. Fort Edward 1758."

refresh themselves and their cattle in the shade. The young people were shy of this dark lane in the evening. Yet evenings there, at the proper season, were not without their entertainments: whippoorwills sang in the trees, and wherever a spot of open meadow appeared, the whole air was in a glow with the sparkle of fire-flies.

A considerable lustre was thrown upon the town-plot by its being the residence of the Hon. Samuel Huntington, Governor of the State. He was not a native of the town, but had early settled in the place as an attorney. His wife was a daughter of the Rev. Ebenezer Devotion, of Windham: a lady without any pretensions to style or fashion, but amiable and discreet. It was long remembered that in a white short gown, stuff petticoat, a clean muslin apron, and nicely starched cap, she would take her knitting and go out by two o'clock in the afternoon to take tea unceremoniously with some respectable neighbor, perhaps the butcher's or blacksmith's wife. But this was early in her married life, before Mr. Huntington was President of Congress, or Governor of Connecticut. These offices made a higher style of housekeeping appropriate, and in later days the movements of Mrs. Huntington in leaving town or returning home became matters of public notoriety, and she was saluted whenever she appeared in public, with ceremonious courtesy.\* After the Revolution, the Governor built a new house, elegant and spacious, and lived in quiet dignity.

This worthy couple had no children of their own, but children always gathered around them. Though he was wise and sedate, and she quiet and thrifty, yet lurking beneath a grave exterior, both had large hearts and that sunny benevolence of disposition that attracts the young, and delights in the interchange of favors with them, giving care and counsel, for cheer and fervid feeling.

Before the Revolutionary war, Mr. Huntington had generally some two or three young law-students with him; his nephew, Nathaniel Huntington, and the beautiful Betsey Devotion,† the belle of Windham, also

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\* From the Norwich Packet, Dec. 21, 1779:

"On Wednesday last, set off from this place for the city of Philadelphia, the lady of Samuel Huntington, Esq., President of Congress. She was escorted out of town by a number of ladies and gentlemen of the first character."

† A younger sister of Mrs. Huntington, and not her niece, as stated in the former history of Norwich. The two young persons mentioned, died young. In a *Life of Aaron Burr*, (not Parton's,) Vol. I., a letter is quoted, written from Norwich by Jonathan Bellamy, one of the young men who studied law with Mr. Huntington, in which the writer alludes to the void made in their pleasant circle by the death of Natty Huntington. The Norwich Packet of Dec. 8, 1774, speaks of him also as a great loss to the community, and adds, "a great concourse of people attended his obsequies." He was in his 24th year. Elizabeth Devotion, Mrs. Huntington's sister, died March 8, 1775, aged 23.



spent much of their time in his family; the house therefore naturally became the center of attraction to the young and happy of that joyous neighborhood.

After the social chat and merry game of the parlor had taken their turn, they would frequently repair to the kitchen, and dance away till the oak floor shone under their feet, and the pewter quivered upon the dressers. These pastimes, however, had little in them of the nature of a ball; there were no expensive dresses, no collations, no late hours. They seldom lasted beyond nine o'clock. According to the good old custom of Norwich, the ringing of the bell at that hour broke up all meetings, dispersed all parties, put an end to all discussions, and sent all visitors quietly to their homes and their beds.

Governor Huntington was born at Windham, July 3, 1731. His father, Nathaniel Huntington, was by trade both a farmer and a clothier. He gave a liberal education to three of his sons, who devoted themselves to the Christian ministry; but Samuel, being designed for a mechanic, was apprenticed to a cooper, and fully served out his time.

Roger Wolcott, the chief-justice, Samuel Huntington, and Roger Sherman, three of Connecticut's noblemen, all began life with tilling the soil, or working at some mechanical art.

Mr. Huntington's mind was naturally acute and investigating, and his thirst for mental improvement so great as to surmount all obstacles. From observation, from men, and from books, he was always collecting information, and he soon abandoned manual labor for study. He was self-educated,—went to no college, attended no distinguished school, sat at the feet of no great master, but yet acquired a competent knowledge of law, borrowing the necessary books of Col. Jedidiah Elderkin, and was readily admitted to the bar. He settled in Norwich in 1760, and soon became useful and eminent in his profession. He frequently represented the town in the colonial assembly, was active in many ways as a citizen, agent for the town in several cases, and forward in promoting public improvements. He was appointed King's Attorney, and afterward Assistant Judge of the Superior Court. In 1775, he was elected a delegate to the Continental Congress, and served as President of that honorable body during the sessions of 1779 and 1780. While in Congress, his seat on the bench was kept vacant for him, and he resumed it in 1781. He held various other important offices, such as Chief Justice of the State and Lieutenant Governor, and in 1786 was elected Governor, and annually re-elected by the freemen, with singular unanimity, until his death, which took place at Norwich, Jan. 5, 1796.

He was honored with the degree of LL. D. both by Yale and Dartmouth.

Mrs. Huntington died June 4, 1794. After the decease of the two

interesting relatives before mentioned, they had adopted and educated two children of the Governor's brother, the Rev. Joseph Huntington of Coventry. These were Samuel and Fanny Huntington, who lived with their revered relatives as children with parents, affectionately and happily. They were present to soothe their last hours, to close their dying eyes, and to place their remains in the tomb.

The daughter married the Rev. E. D. Griffin, President of Williams-town College: the son removed to Ohio, and served that State in various important offices.

Governor Huntington preserved to the last those habits of simplicity with which he began life. In the published journal of the Marquis de Chastellux, he speaks of Mr. Huntington, who was then President of Congress, with marked respect. The Marquis was a Major-General in the French army that came to our assistance. While at Philadelphia, in December, 1780, he called upon Mr. Huntington, in company with the French ambassador, and observes, "We found him in his cabinet, lighted by a single candle. This simplicity reminded me of Fabricius and the Philopemens." At another time he dined with him, in company with several other French gentlemen of distinction, and adds: "Mrs. Huntington, a good-looking, lusty woman, but not young, did the honors of the table, that is to say, helped every body, without saying a word." This silence must surely be attributed to ignorance of the language of the gay cavaliers, and not to any deficiency of good manners or conversational power.

Mr. Huntington was of the middle size, dignified in his manners, even to formality; reserved in popular intercourse, but in the domestic circle pleasing and communicative; his complexion swarthy, his eye vivid and penetrating. One who was long an inmate of his family, said: "I never heard a frivolous observation from him; his conversation ever turned to something of a practical nature; he was moderate and circumspect in all his movements, and delivered his sentiments in few but weighty words."

He was eminently a religious man: as ready to officiate at a conference meeting, or to make a prayer and read the Scriptures when called upon in a public assembly, or to breathe counsel and consolation by the bedside of the dying, as to plead before a judge, or to preside in Congress.

This sketch can not be better concluded, than with the earnest wish breathed by a contemporary panegyrist,—“May Connecticut never want a man of equal worth to preside in her councils, guard her interests, and diffuse prosperity through her towns.”

Elisha Hyde, Roger Griswold and Asa Spalding were at this time prominent men in the community, as attorneys and public officers. Norwich never had a trio of barristers more able and more varied in their



characteristics: Griswold, keen and impetuous; Spalding, cool and plain-spoken even to bluntness; and Hyde, witty, conciliating, and popular.

A considerable branch of the business of the day was the sale and purchase of public securities. They were in good demand, and coin was freely offered for them. These securities consisted of bounty lands, military rights, indents, continental certificates, loan-office certificates, final settlements, state notes, soldier notes, pay-table orders, and various other pledges that had supplied the place of money during the war.

*Roger Griswold* settled in Norwich when first admitted to the bar in 1783, and soon acquired distinction as an able advocate and vigilant public officer, quick and efficient in carrying out the laws, and rigid in exacting obedience. After his marriage, he purchased the dwelling-house on the Green, vacated by Dudley Woodbridge upon his removal to the West, and made it his residence until he left Norwich and returned to his native town, Lyme, which was in 1798.\*

It is an interesting fact that he came back to Norwich to die. He was elected Governor of Connecticut in May, 1811, and re-elected the succeeding year. For several years he had been afflicted with a disease of the heart, which at intervals caused him great suffering. It increased so rapidly, that in the summer of 1812, he was removed to Norwich, that he might try the effect of a change of air, and at the same time have the benefit of advice from Dr. Tracy, in whose skill as a physician he had great confidence. But neither air nor medicine could do more for him than alleviate the paroxysms of his distress, and he died Oct. 25, 1812, aged 50.

*Asa Spalding* was born in Canterbury in 1757; graduated at Yale in 1779; studied law with Judge Adams of Litchfield, and settled in Norwich as an attorney in 1782. He was without patrimony or any special patronage, but by the force of native ability, sound judgment, and integrity, he acquired an extensive law practice, sustained various offices of trust and honor, and by diligence, accompanied with strict economy in his domestic affairs, amassed a handsome property. At the time of his death in 1811, he was reckoned one of the richest men in the eastern part of Connecticut.

Yet it was then no easy matter to grow rich in the practice of the law. The price for managing a case before the common pleas varied only from six to thirty shillings, and before the superior court from six to fifty-four shillings.

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\* Gov. Griswold married, Oct. 21, 1788, Fanny, daughter of Col. Zabdiel Rogers. She survived him 51 years, and died at Blackhall, Lyme, Dec. 26, 1863, aged 96 years and 9 months.

His brother, the late Judge Luther Spalding, about ten years the junior of Asa, settled at Norwich in the practice of the law, in 1797. A third brother, Dr. Rufus Spalding, a physician who had been for many years in practice at Nantucket, also removed to Norwich in 1812,\* and the three brothers repose in the same burial-ground.

*Dr. Joshua Lathrop* died in 1807, at the age of 84. He was the last in Norwich of the ancient race of gentlemen that wore a white wig. This, with the three-cornered hat, the glittering buckles at his knees and in his shoes, the spotless ruffles in his bosom, and the gold-headed cane, made him an object of admiring wonder to young eyes from whose vision such a costume was passing away.

Mrs. Lathrop was a daughter of the Rev. Nathaniel Eells of Stonington. She died July 7, 1833, in her 91st year. Original portraits of this couple, painted in 1774, when one was fifty and the other thirty years of age, are preserved by their descendants.

The partners and successors of Dr. Lathrop were his nephews and sons, and the nephew of his wife, Cushing Eells: the firm changing from Daniel & Joshua Lathrop, to Lathrop & Coit, Coit & Lathrop, Lathrop & Eells. Under this firm the business was transferred to the Landing.

*Aaron Cleveland* was born at East Haddam, Feb. 3, 1744, but spent all the central and most active part of his life in Norwich. It has been claimed for him that he was the first writer in Connecticut to call in question the lawfulness of slavery and to argue against it,—a distinction to which he seems to have been justly entitled. Several pointed articles on this subject, that appeared in the columns of the *Norwich Packet*, are supposed to have come from his pen. In 1775, he published a poem against slavery. In 1779, while a representative of the town, he introduced into the Legislature a bill for its abolition. He was probably sent to the Assembly for this very purpose, as the popular sentiment was then in favor of immediate emancipation.

Mr. Cleveland afterward became a Congregational minister, and was settled for a short time at Brampton, Vt., but was dismissed in 1803, and after that time never settled, but was occupied in supplying vacant pulpits. He died at New Haven, Sept. 21, 1815.

His first wife and two young children were interred at Norwich. His second wife was Elizabeth, relict of David Breed, and daughter of Jeremiah Clement.

His second son, Deacon William Cleveland, after a residence of some years in New London and New York, returned to Norwich, and was set

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\* After the death of Dr. Spalding in 1830, most of his family removed to the West. Rufus P. Spalding, M. C. from Cleveland, Ohio, is his son.



apart to the office of deacon of the first Congregational Church, April 30, 1812. He was a man of social, amiable temperament, and fervent piety. He died at Black Rock, Aug. 18, 1837, at the residence of his son-in-law, Lewis F. Allen.

The Rev. Charles Cleveland, for many years the excellent city missionary of Boston, is another of the sons of Rev. A. P. Cleveland. He was born at Norwich, June 21, 1772, and though now (1865) 93 years of age, has health and energy sufficient to continue his walks of usefulness and visits of mercy.

One of the daughters of Mr. Cleveland married David L. Dodge, and a daughter of the second wife, the youngest of his thirteen children, married the Rev. Samuel H. Coxe, D. D.

*William Hubbard*, son of Daniel and Martha (Coit) Hubbard, was an inhabitant of Norwich for about twenty-five years, in business as a branch of the firm of Hubbards & Greene, Boston. He married Lydia, daughter of Joseph Coit of New London, which brought him into the relationship of nephew to Doctors Daniel and Joshua Lathrop, the mother of his wife being their sister. An uncommon mortality seems to have blighted his domestic relations. A youthful daughter died in 1770; his first wife in 1778; and soon after his return to Boston in 1788, his second wife was laid in the grave. His oldest son, William, died Sept. 10, 1789, aged 22, and a month later, the oldest son by the second wife, aged nine years. The death of these half-brothers was bewailed in various elegiac verses printed at the time. They were buried each by the side of his mother, one in Norwich and the other in Boston. Joseph, a third son, died May 25, 1790, and was also interred at Norwich in the family group. Before the close of the year, Dec. 28, 1790, Mr. Hubbard's oldest child, Lydia, the young wife of Thomas Lathrop, aged 25 years, was also laid in the grave.

Mr. Hubbard's third wife was a Miss Copely of Boston. He afterward removed to Colchester, Ct., and there died in 1801, aged 61.

*Daniel L. Coit* was one of the sterling men of Norwich: intelligent, refined, and of spotless character. He was a native of New London, but at an early age was placed with his uncles, the brothers Lathrop, eminent druggists of Norwich, and ultimately became their partner. After arriving at mature age, he went to England as agent of the company, to purchase goods, and before returning home, made a brief tour upon the continent. He was at Paris when the first successful balloon experiment was made. This was the famous ascent of Messrs. Charles and Robert, Dec. 1, 1783. Mr. Coit was present, and wrote an account of this wonderful event to his father in Norwich, which was published in the weekly news-

paper, and was the first notice on this side of the Atlantic, of what the writer calls .

*“This new art of flying.”*

He observes that balloons had been before dispatched into the heavens without navigators, but in this instance, “two men placing themselves in the car ascended to the height of 500 yards and then sailed away on the wings of the wind to the distance of nine leagues.” The writer adds,—“The novelty of the thing is so great that it engrosses half the talk and attention of the city.”

Mr. Coit was one of the original purchasers of the Western Reserve, and made repeated visits to that remote and solitary region, assisting largely in the settlement by his advice, means, and influence.

He was fond of agriculture, of the natural sciences, and of books. He died Nov. 27, 1833, in the 80th year of his age.

At the annual election for Governor in 1786, 900 votes were given in Norwich for Gov. Huntington. This is not only a remarkable instance of home popularity, and of harmony of opinion in the eight societies, but it shows that the town contained a large proportion of *solid men*,—a certain amount of property as well as a fair character being then an indispensable qualification of a voter. Even in the present day of almost unlimited elective franchise, it is rare to find a much larger proportion of the inhabitants of a town voters. The population of Norwich was then nearly 7000. In 1790, after the division of the town, the census stood thus:

Norwich,	-	-	-	-	3284
Franklin,	-	-	-	-	1192
Lisbon,	-	-	-	-	1076
Bozrah,	-	-	-	-	926
East Society, in Preston,	-	-	-	-	1100
Total,	-	-	-	-	<u>7578</u>

This was but a slight variation from the number in 1770; the war of the Revolution and repeated emigrations having kept the stream of population flowing in nearly a dead level for twenty years.



## CHAPTER XLII.

COURT-HOUSE. MASONRY. WASHINGTON'S DEATH. PRISONERS FROM ST. DOMINGO. FIRST SOCIETY AFFAIRS. FIRES. TURNPIKES AND RAILROAD.

IN 1759, a vote was passed to build a new court-house, 50 feet by 26 or 28. It was to stand near the corner of the Green, in front of the old one, which was then extant, though dilapidated. The building committee were Hezekiah and Jabez Huntington and Dr. Daniel Lathrop, and the expense was to be liquidated by a penny rate.

This house was completed in 1761, and placed in charge of Samuel Huntington, Esq., then a popular attorney of the place, afterward President of the Continental Congress and Governor of the State. A chamber in the building was assigned to him for his office as town agent.

This is the edifice still known as the old court-house, but used for many years past for a school. In 1793, no repairs having been made since the erection of the house, its ruinous condition was such as to call forth a protest from the court. Whereupon the town claimed that they were not obliged to keep a court-house in repair for the courts, and sent a petition to the General Assembly, that the county should be directed to repair the court-house or build a new one. The dissension between the town and county on this subject continued for several years; but in 1798 the house was thoroughly repaired and painted by the town, and a sum raised by subscription for removing it from its awkward station on the Green. It was carried across the street, and placed in its present position, where it is supposed to stand nearly if not precisely upon the site of Major Mason's original dwelling-house, erected in November, 1659.

A house for ammunition was also built about the same time as the court-house, 1760. It was a square stone receptacle, standing on the declivity of the hill by the path that led up to the meeting-house. Here a few muskets, a quantity of bullets, and about 3000 lbs. of powder were deposited, and the key committed to Mr. Huntington.

This powder-house was blown up in the year 1784. The train was laid by some unknown incendiary, but being discovered half an hour before the explosion, it might have been easily extinguished, if any one could have been found sufficiently daring to attempt it. The timely dis-

covery, however, prevented any injury to life or limb, as all in the neighborhood were advertised of the danger, and kept out of the way. The concussion was violent; windows were broken, timbers loosened, roofs started, plastering cracked, and furniture thrown down. Where the building stood, the ground was left entirely free of rubbish; not even a stone of the foundation remained on the site, and only one of them could be identified afterwards, and that descended upon a roof at some distance, and passing through two floors, lodged in the cellar. A bag of cannister shot flew into the chamber window of the parsonage. The meeting-house was much shattered by this explosion.

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*Masonry.* About 1790, Freemasonry began to be popular in Norwich. In 1794, Somerset Lodge was constituted with great pomp. The services were at the meeting-house in the town-plot. Bishop Seabury preached a sermon in the morning, from Heb. 3:4. A grand procession was then formed, which passed through the town, accompanied by a band of music; dinner was served in a rural bower erected upon the plain, and in the afternoon the lodge again proceeded to the meeting-house, and listened to another sermon, by the Rev. Elhanan Winchester, from Psalm 133:1,—“Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.”

From this spirited beginning, Masonry, though more popular at some periods than others, has never seriously declined. The annual festival of Somerset Lodge was generally graced with a public oration. In 1798, on the festival of St. John the Baptist, the fraternity met at Braman's Hotel on the Chelsea Parade, and marched in procession to the First Society meeting-house, where a discourse was delivered by the Rev. John Tyler, and odes and psalms were sung under the direction of Mr. Roberts, a noted chorister of that era. A public dinner and masonic toasts were the usual accompaniment of these festivals.

A Franklin Chapter of R. A. M. was instituted soon after the formation of Somerset Lodge. This also had its annual celebration. An oration before the Chapter at the Feast of St. Andrew in 1810, by Ulysses Selden, was published. Mr. Selden was a young man of pleasing exterior, gay disposition, and eloquent discourse, who settled in Norwich as an attorney. He died after a brief practice of his profession, and was interred at Lyme, his native place. This oration is the chief memorial left of his residence in Norwich.

The Masons in Norwich have always been creditably distinguished for the liberality with which they dispense their funds to aid impoverished brethren or their families. They have now several chapters, councils and encampments in the town. Uncas Hall, formerly the gathering-place of



the Society of Odd Fellows, has recently been remodeled and dedicated to Masonic purposes by the fraternity of Somerset Lodge.

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Washington's death, Dec. 14, 1790, was commemorated in Norwich with solemn religious services. On the Sabbath following, Dr. Strong delivered a memorial sermon. At the Landing, the Episcopal and Congregational churches were both shrouded in black, and the two congregations united in the commemorative services. They assembled at the Episcopal church, where prayers were read and a solemn dirge performed. A procession was then formed of both sexes, which moved with plaintive music and tolling bells to the Congregational church, where a discourse was delivered by Mr. King, from the text, *How are the mighty fallen!*

Subsequently, on the day recommended by Congress for the national observance, the societies again united; the Rev. Mr. Tyler delivered an oration, and several original odes, hymns and lamentations were sung or chanted.

The sermons of Messrs. Strong and King and the eulogy of Mr. Tyler were each separately published.

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In September, 1800, the U. S. ship Trumbull, Capt. Jewett, returning from a cruise against the French, came into New London harbor with a prize vessel of ten guns, called *La Vengeance*, which had been taken near the port of Jacquemel in the West Indies, with 140 persons on board. These were delivered over to the authorities as prisoners of war, and seventeen of them sent to Norwich, where they remained about six months.\*

The terrific war of the races, French, Spaniards and Africans struggling for dominion, had made fearful havoc in St. Domingo, and at this period Gen. Rigaud was at the head of one party, and the African chief Touissant of the other. The latter had laid siege to Jacquemel, which was about to surrender, and many of the inhabitants, apprehensive that an indiscriminate sack and slaughter would follow, fled with what little property they could carry with them, to the vessels in the harbor for safety. It was one of these vessels endeavoring to reach Cuba with its throng of exiles, that was taken by the Trumbull.

The prisoners were natives of St. Domingo, partly of French origin, but with a large admixture of African blood. They were mostly civil officers, captains of barges, merchants and their servants, and though nominally of Rigaud's party, they had taken no active part in the contest,

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\* Eighty-four were sent to Hartford; the remainder were retained in New London.

and might reasonably have expected that an American ship would humanely favor their flight, rather than plunder them of their goods and carry them into captivity.

The prisoners sent to Norwich were treated with compassionate kindness. They had the privilege of the gaol limits, and were allowed to stroll from house to house. Wholesome food and comfortable winter garments were provided for them. Dr. Philemon Tracy, who attended on them as their physician, apprehending that they would suffer from the rigors of a cold climate, made great exertions to procure their immediate release. It was not however till March, 1801, that the Government virtually condemned their capture by ordering their free discharge and furnishing them with transportation home.

Some of these exiles were men of education and ability. One of them had been a justice of the peace; another, a young mulatto of manly and dignified deportment, was afterward the able and discreet President of the Republic of Hayti. He was then about twenty-four years of age, and having already attained considerable rank in the order of Freemasons, he was boarded while in Norwich, at the expense of the Masonic Lodge, in a private family. Most of his leisure time he employed in perfecting himself in the English language, and at his departure he cut from a piece of his linen, his name, marked at full length, *Jean Pierre Boyer*, and gave it to one of the young members of the family, that had assisted him in his lessons. "Keep this," he said, "and perhaps, some day, you may send it to me in a letter, and I will remember you."

The lad lost his mark, but nearly twenty years afterward, President Boyer, then at the head of the Haytien Republic, made inquiries of certain Norwich ship-masters respecting his former friends, and sent a handsome gratuity to the two families in which he had been treated with special kindness.\*

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On the 7th of February, 1801, the church in the town-plot (completed in 1770) was consumed to ashes by the torch of some unknown incendiary. A group of contiguous buildings, viz., the retail store of Messrs. Carew & Huntington, an unoccupied dwelling-house, formerly belonging to Dudley Woodbridge, and recently the abode of Roger Griswold, Esq., and several barns, sheds, and out-houses, were destroyed in the same conflagration. The fire was undoubtedly kindled by design, but the perpetrator was never discovered.

Four years previous,—in February, 1797,—attempts had been made, night after night, to set fire to these same buildings, and two barns near them were successively destroyed. Trains had been repeatedly laid, and

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\* To the widows of Consider Sterry and Diah Manning, each a donation of \$400.



fires kindled, which were discovered and extinguished before much damage was done. Mr. Breed, Mayor of the City, issued a proclamation, (Feb. 7th,) offering a reward of \$500 for the discovery of the culprit. A vigilant watch was also kept for some time in the vicinity of the church, and no further attempt was made at this point, but fires were kindled and barns consumed in different parts of the town. Similar attempts at arson occurred at intervals for three or four years, leading to the suspicion that they were all the work of some brooding, lurking incendiary, till they culminated in the destruction of the church in 1801. The culprit was never discovered.

It is an old remark, often proving true, that fires are great improvers: they are probably borne with more philosophy on that account. A new church edifice was speedily erected on the old site, the expense being defrayed partly by subscription, and partly by a lottery granted by the Legislature at the May session of 1801. This church stands upon land belonging to the town.

In town meeting, 12 May, 1801. "The Town grants liberty to the 1st Ecclesiastical Society to erect a Meeting House on the Town Common, west of the highway, near where the last meeting house stood that was destroyed by fire."

The corner-stone was laid with interesting ceremonies by Gen. Ebenezer Huntington, on the 18th of June. Only a few words were uttered, but they were of solemn import. "May the house raised on this foundation become a temple of the Lord and the dwelling-place of the Holy Spirit." A throng of spectators murmured their assent, and young people standing above on the rocks waved their green boughs. Dr. Strong, the pastor, then offered prayer.

In the style of church architecture, this edifice displayed a great advance over all other churches in this part of the State. It had groined arches, massive pillars to support the gallery, and a central dome painted sky-blue; but it retained the old forms of a high contracted pulpit and square pews.\*

In 1845, the interior was entirely remodeled, and since that period it has been a second time renovated and improved.

In 1803, the house was surrounded with Lombardy poplars. They flourished about twenty years, and kept their places ten years longer in gradual decay.

In 1810, stoves were introduced.

In 1824, the bass-viol gave place to an organ.

The Sabbath School commenced about 1820, and was long kept in the court-house. The present chapel was erected in 1852, the site being a gift to the society from Mrs. Harriet Peck Williams. It contains a hall

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\* Architect, Joseph Terry of Hartford.

for lectures and Sabbath Schools, and a library and study for the pastor. The library, though not extensive, comprises a number of ancient books and pamphlets of considerable rarity and value.

In 1829, Dr. Strong applied to the society to settle a colleague with him in the ministry, wishing, he said, to have the same satisfaction that his venerable predecessor had enjoyed towards the close of his life, in beholding the church and congregation harmoniously unite in settling a successor. That this object might be accomplished with less inconvenience to his people, he voluntarily proposed to relinquish his salary after the first year. The society acceded to his request, and the Rev. Cornelius B. Everest, who had been previously settled at Windham, was installed as his colleague the same year.

Dr. Strong was born at Coventry, Ct., Sept. 21, 1753; was ordained at Norwich, March 18, 1778; and died Dec. 18, 1834, aged 81.

The pastorates of Drs. Lord and Strong comprise 117 years, besides six years of joint service. This is an extraordinary instance of ministerial longevity, perhaps unequaled in the ecclesiastical annals of New England.\*

Mr. Everest, who, after the decease of Dr. Strong, became the sole pastor of the church, was dismissed in April, 1836,† and succeeded by Rev. Hiram P. Arms, the present pastor.

Mr. Arms is a native of Windsor, Ct., born in 1799, graduated at Yale College in 1824, and was settled in the ministry successively at Hebron and at Wolcottville, Ct., officiating about three years in each place. He was installed at Norwich Aug. 3, 1836, and is now, in the length of his pastorate, the senior pastor of all denominations in Norwich.

This church has a fund of \$12,000. It numbers over 200 members, and comprises about 125 families.

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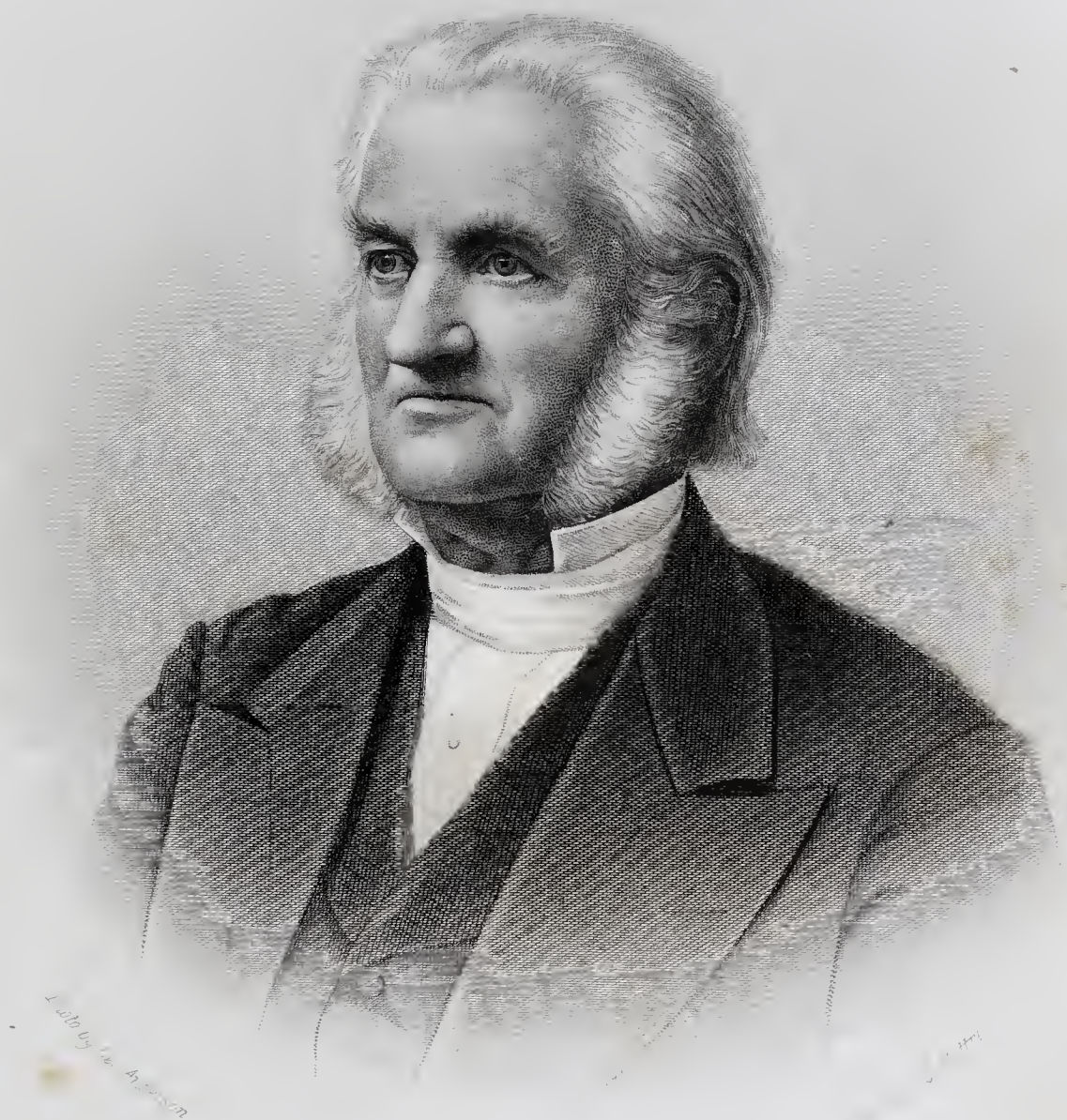
The most destructive fires in Norwich have been those in which churches have been consumed. That of February, 1801, which swept away the church of the First Society, has been noticed. Another of still greater extent, in which the Congregational church in Chelsea was destroyed, will be more particularly noticed in a subsequent chapter.

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\* Instances that come near to it are the following. The successive ministries of Rev. Anthony Stoddard and Rev. Noah Benedict at Woodbury, Ct., amounted to 111 years, from 1702 to 1813. In the first parish in York, Me., two ministers occupied the pulpit from 1700 to 1806.

† Mr. Everest afterward held the pastoral office successively at Bloomfield and at Windsor, but subsequently withdrew from the Congregational ministry. "On the 3d of June, 1860, he received baptism by immersion at the hands of Rev. Dr. Kennard of Philadelphia, being at the time 71 years old." Cong. Quarterly, Vol. III., p. 264.





*H. P. Arms.*

REV. HIRAM P. ARMS, D. D.





The second church built by the Congregational Society in Chelsea fell a prey to the flames in 1844, being so far consumed as to render it advisable to build a wholly new edifice.

The Main Street Congregational Church was destroyed by fire in September, 1854, having stood only nine years.

The Baptist Church at Greenville was burnt down Feb. 27, 1854.

Of the other casualties by fire, two have been attended with loss of life, viz.:

April 12, 1801. A house in the town-plot, between the dwellings of Col. Christopher Leffingwell and Mr. John Bliss, occupied by Jackson Browne, an English gentleman, was wholly and rapidly consumed, with most of its contents. The flames burst forth at midnight, and when first discovered, the whole interior of the lower story was on fire. Several of the family escaped with difficulty, and one of the children perished in the flames. Mr. Browne's card of thanks refers to the strenuous exertions made by the citizens to rescue his *lost child*. Her funeral service was attended by the Rev. Mr. Tyler, who recorded the fact as follows:

"Sophia, daughter of Jackson Browne, Esq. of the kingdom of Great Britain, and of Eliza his wife, between 7 and 8 years of age, who perished in the burning of the house eight days before: the interment was of the few bones found in the ashes April 21, 1801."\*

The house of Mr. Andrew Griswold of Bean Hill was destroyed by fire Feb. 27, 1811. The weather was cold; rain was falling; the fire commenced in the lower story, and the members of the family reposing in the chambers were aroused too late to escape by the stairway. Some of them leaped from the windows. Miss Phebe Hunn, an infirm woman, the sister-in-law of Mr. Griswold, perished in the flames.

The road between Norwich and New London, passing through *the Mohegan fields*, was first laid out by order of the Legislature, under the survey and direction of Joshua Raymond, who was remunerated with a tract of land sufficient for a large farm upon the route. This must have been as early as 1670,† but for more than a century the road was little better

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\* Mr. Browne had been for several years in this country. The venerable Charles Miner, in sketching some scenes descriptive of that period, observes:

"Note that dashing gentleman and lady on the fine pair of blacks. They have a foreign air. It is Jackson Brown, supposed to be an agent of the British Commissary department. They do not stop to have a gate opened, but bound over it as if in pursuit of a fox." *Norwich Jubilee*, App., 275.

Mr. Browne's family, after they were burnt out, occupied for a short time the Teel house on the Parade. He soon went himself to Barbadoes, where he died in 1804.

† Mr. Raymond died in 1676, and his son, the second Joshua, speaks of this tract of land as "my father's homestead farm in the Mohegan fields."

than an Indian trail. Its numerous windings, fords and precipitous hills made it both inconvenient and hazardous. The travel was chiefly on horseback, or with ox-carts.

In 1789, several prominent individuals formed an association to effect an improvement of this road. The Legislature granted them a lottery, the avails of which were to be expended in repairing so much of the road as ran through the Indian land. This lottery was drawn at Norwich in June, 1791. The next May a company was incorporated to make the road a turnpike and erect a toll-gate. By these various exertions the distance was reduced to fourteen miles from the court-house on Norwich Green to the court-house in New London, and the traveling rendered tolerably safe. The toll commenced in June, 1792: [4-wheel carriages, 9*d.*; 2 do., 4½*d.*; man and horse, 1*d.*]

This was the first turnpike in the United States. Dr. Dwight observes in his travels that this road brought the inhabitants of Norwich and New London more than half a day's journey nearer to each other. "Formerly (he says) few persons attempted to go from one of these places to the other and return the same day; the journey is now easily performed in little more than two hours."

This turnpike became almost immediately an important thoroughfare, of great service to Norwich and the towns in her rear for driving cattle and transporting produce to New London for embarkation. In 1806, it was extended to the landing, by a new road that began at the wharf bridge, and fell into the old road south of Trading Cove bridge. In 1812, another new piece of road was annexed to it, which was laid out in a direct line from the court-house to the old Mohegan road.

The company was dissolved and the toll abolished July 1, 1852.

The Norwich and Providence post-road was made a turnpike in 1794.

The Norwich and Woodstock road, extending from Norwich to the Massachusetts line, was made a turnpike in 1801, and discontinued in 1846, the company having made no dividends for six years.

The turnpike from Norwich through Salem to Essex on the Connecticut river, commonly called the Essex turnpike, was established in 1827, and relinquished about 1860.

The Shetucket Turnpike Company, to maintain a road through Preston, Griswold, Voluntown, and Sterling, to the east boundary, was incorporated in 1829.

This company continued in operation more than thirty years, paying yearly on its capital of \$11,000, a small dividend averaging 1½ per cent. In 1861, the franchise was surrendered to the towns of Preston, Griswold and Voluntown, for the sum of \$1375.



## RAILROADS.

The railroad supersedes and destroys the turnpike. The Norwich and Worcester Railroad Company was formed in 1832; the Legislatures of Connecticut and Massachusetts each granting a charter for that portion of the road which lay within their respective States. These two companies were united by the said Legislatures in 1836, the whole capital amounting to \$1,700,000. The length from the steamboat landing in Norwich to the depot at Worcester is fifty-eight and nine-tenth miles, eighteen of which is in Massachusetts.

The first stroke of the spade on this road was at Greeneville, Nov. 18, 1835, and it was completed and the trains ran the whole distance in March, 1840.

Just beyond Greeneville in Norwich, the road forms a curve of 1,000 feet radius along the banks of the Shetucket, affording a fine view of the river, the bridge, and adjacent country. Three miles from the city, at the Quinebaug Falls, the company were met by an immense mass of rock lying across their contemplated route. Here a deep cut was channeled for a considerable distance through a friable rock, but reaching at length a bed of solid granite, a tunnel was excavated 300 feet in length and twenty in width. The height from the bed of the tunnel to the summit of the rock above is about 100 feet. Sitting in the car and gazing upon the scenery, you suddenly find yourself gliding into the bosom of frowning cliffs, and enveloped in subterranean darkness. You come out slowly, grinding along the edge of a precipice, with the ragged, foaming, contracted river below you on one side, and a barrier of cliffs on the other.

The road for many miles keeps near the Quinebaug, which has everywhere the same characteristics, chafed and noisy, the banks bold, the bed rocky, and the edges disfigured by boulders brought down with ice in spring floods, and lodged along the water course.

The section of the road from Norwich to Jewett City in Preston, was the most laborious and expensive of the route. The course was winding, the radius short, the earth encumbered with rocks; the contractors lost money, and were obliged to throw themselves upon the company. The tunnel alone cost nearly \$30,000.

A large depot or station-house was erected at Norwich, contiguous to the steamboat landing, two stories high, and 200 feet in length. It is situated just at the spot where the Shetucket contracts its course, turns a quarter round, and glides into the Thames. Here the company purchased a small rocky promontory called the Point, pulled down the buildings which covered it, blew up the rocks, filled the shallows, and constructed the station-house, together with a wharf and a solid stone wall.

During the severe flood in the spring of 1841, a bar was formed in the

channel of the Thames, by an accumulation of sand brought down the Shetucket, 360 feet in length, which it was found very difficult to excavate so as to leave the channel of its former depth. In consequence of this bar, the steamboats which had before this occasionally grounded in the river, were now frequently delayed two or three hours upon their route. This obstruction, together with the serious inconvenience arising from the ice in the winter season, induced the company to extend their road from Norwich along the bank of the river, seven miles to Allen's Point, near Gale's Ferry. This part of the road was completed in 1843.

By a subsequent addition to their charter, the company were allowed to extend their road to Long Island Sound, provided it were done before 1856, and this term was afterward extended to 1860. But this project was not accomplished, and the portion of the road from Norwich port to Allyn's Point has since been dropped from the regular line of travel. The company, by contract with the N. L. & N. R. R. Co., now make use of their track upon the west side of the river to reach the Sound.

Public opinion greatly favored the construction of this road, or it could not have been accomplished. Twice the company obtained a loan from the city of \$100,000, the Legislature sanctioning the act; the loan in the first instance being secured by 1500 shares of the stock, and in the second by a mortgage on the franchise and income of the road. In 1843, the Assembly authorized the company to issue bonds.

The junction of the Norwich and Worcester Railroad with the New London, Willimantic and Palmer Railroad, (now New London and Northern Railroad,) at Norwich City, was effected in 1853. The junction track passes over Yantic cove by a curve, north of the wharf bridge, and from thence under the street leading to the bridge, and across the city wharves and slips to the depot near the mouth of the Shetucket. The cost of the right of way was about \$40,000.

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A company was incorporated in 1841, for the construction of a railroad from Norwich to the Connecticut river, called the Norwich and Lyme Railroad Company.

In 1851, the Norwich and Westbrook Railroad Company was incorporated to effect the same object by a different route.

Nothing was done by either company, beyond the forming of plans and making of surveys.



## CHAPTER XLIII.

### CHELSEA. THE PARADE. FIRST HOUSES AND OLD INHABITANTS.

IN 1790, Middle or Main street in Chelsea was opened at an expense of £100, which was paid partly by the city and partly by individual subscription. About the same time, Crescent street, the ends of which were at the store of Capt. Thomas Fanning and the house of Rev. Walter King, was greatly improved through the liberality and exertions of Capt. William Hubbard.

The western avenue to Chelsea, now Washington street, was also at this time rectified and a new section thrown open by the adjoining landholders.

The broad plateau intersected by these streets was then known as the Little Plain. It seems not to have had any more distinctive name. On the 11th of September, 1793, the 20th regiment of infantry, Joseph Williams, Colonel, was here reviewed, and upon this occasion it was called *the Parade*. This was probably the first regimental review at this place. The general trainings had previously been held on the Great Plain, near Morgan's tavern, upon the road to New London.

Very little improvement had heretofore been made in this part of the town, but the period had arrived for bringing it into notice. Several building-lots had been purchased and houses erected upon its borders, but the central part of the plain lay untilled and unfenced, the owners being non-residents, descendants of the original grantees, John Reynolds and Matthew Adgate. The larger portion comprised a single field, popularly called "Adgate's three-square lot."

It was certainly desirable, both as a matter of taste and convenience, that this area should be kept open to the public, and fortunately men of liberal minds stood ready to bring about this result.

Joseph Perkins and Thomas Fanning, two of the neighboring land proprietors, apparently at their own motion and private expense, undertook to clear this central area of all claims and incumbrances, that it might be made a public square for the use of the town. This they effected, and having obtained quit-claim deeds of the several heirs, conveyed the fee as a free gift to the town. The deed of cession has the following preamble:

We Thomas Fanning and Joseph Perkins, both of Norwich, for and in consideration of the good will we have and do bear to the inhabitants of the Town of Norwich and in consideration of the desire we have that said inhabitants may continually and at all times be furnished and accommodated with a free, open, unincumbered piece of land or ground, convenient for a public *Parade* or *Walk*, do give, grant, remise, release and forever quit claim unto Doctor Joshua Lathrop, one of the principal inhabitants of said town, and to all the rest of the inhabitants of said Town of Norwich in their corporate capacity, and to their successors forever, for the use and purpose of a Public Parade or open Walk, to be unincumbered with any kind of building or buildings, public or private, or nuisance whatever, and for no other purpose.

Dated 5th day of April, 1797.

All honor to the generosity and enlightened foresight of those men who secured this great privilege to the town. They struck at the right time, just when the spirit of progress had reached the spot. A little later, and in all probability the area would have been carved into building-lots, and the town would never have possessed this her most graceful ornament. Without this central plain, Norwich would seem deprived of half her beauty.

This public square has hitherto had no established name. The prevailing idea in the minds of the grantees seems to have been that of providing an open space for military exercises. Its earliest designation was therefore *the Parade*. Col. Elisha Edgerton's regiment of cavalry was reviewed on the Parade, Sept. 4, 1798. But of late years it has acquired more of the character of a park, and from the long residence—more than half a century—of Gen. Wm. Williams upon its border, it has obtained the current and acceptable name of Williams Park.\*

In 1801, the rage for setting out Lombardy poplars ran through the town like an epidemic. The quivering, silver-lined poplar,—the slender, quick-growing poplar,—was in high repute for convenience, use, ornament and health. The parade received a full share of the general adornment, and was entirely girdled with poplars. These Italian shades are however short-lived in our climate, and the first growth has been seldom renewed. Here, as in most parts of the country, they soon gave place to the more hardy and umbrageous natives of the forest. The elms and maples that now gird the park were set out since 1820.

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#### *First Houses and other Improvements.*

1. A house on the border of the Parade, known of late years as the residence of Capt. Walter Lester, was built by Joseph Carpenter, but left unfinished at his death in 1797.

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\* In September, 1811, Gen. Wm. Williams, then Lieut. Colonel of the third regiment of militia, held his regimental review upon this parade.





Truly Yours  
W<sup>m</sup> Williams





2. On the north-east side a dwelling-house was erected about the year 1785, by Capt. Henry Billings. It was the first house of any note upon the Plain, and was successively occupied by Capt. Billings, by Ebenezer Backus, and by the relict of the latter, with her second husband, A. S. Destouches, a French emigrant. In 1799 it was purchased by Major Rogers, a merchant from Southampton, L. I., and very soon afterward we find an assortment of goods advertised for sale by "Uriah Rogers & Son, at their New Store on the pleasant plains of Chelsea, half a mile from Norwich port."

Major Rogers died in 1814, and this house afterwards became the residence of Rev. Alfred Mitchell, to whose fine taste and devout mind the woodland heights in the rear had a peculiar charm. They were his walk, his study, and his oratory. After Mr. Mitchell's decease, the place was for eight or ten years the seat of Mr. Charles Abbot's Family School for Boys. The house has since been removed to a different part of the town, and the site is occupied by one of the tasteful and costly mansions of modern times.

3. A house very nearly coeval with that of Capt. Billings, on the south-west side of the Plain, was built by Major Ebenezer Whiting, about 1790, and sold in 1795 to Capt. Daniel Dunham. The ground plot included the ancient Indian Cemetery, and sixteen acres of land running down to the neighborhood of Lathrop's Mills, where Major Whiting had a distillery. In preparing for the foundation of this house, a gigantic Indian skeleton was exhumed, and many rude stone tools and arrow-heads thrown up. The place was afterward purchased by Calvin Goddard, and remained for nearly forty years in the possession of the family.\*

4. The brick-house, or Williams mansion, was built in 1789 and '90, by Joseph Teel of Preston, the site being a portion of the original Adgate lot. It was designed for a hotel, and immediately advertised as

*"The Teel House, sign of General Washington."*

It was noted for its fine hall or assembly-room, where shows were exhibited, and balls, lodges and clubs accommodated.† After Mr. Teel's death, the hotel was continued by his son-in-law, Cyrus Bramin, and when offered for sale in 1797, it was particularly recommended for its position: "on the central plain between the town and Landing, which according to the natural appearance of things bids fair to be the seat of business for the town of Norwich."

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\* Now the homestead of John Dunham, Esq., son of the former proprietor.

† An advertisement of May 29, 1794, announces the arrival at Mr. Teel's assembly-room of a party of Italian rope-dancers and tumblers, and the public are invited to call and see Don Peter and Clumsy the Clown dance a horn-pipe blindfold over fifteen eggs.

In June, 1800, the hotel was transformed into a boarding and day-school under the preceptorship of William Woodbridge. After some other changes, it was purchased in 1806 by Carder Hazard, a retired merchant from Newport, by whom it was sold in 1813 to its present owner.

5. On the avenue leading from the east side of the Parade to the Landing, Christopher Leffingwell, Joshua Lathrop and Joseph Perkins were considerable landholders, and each contributed toward opening and embellishing the street, freely relinquishing the land necessary for the public convenience. Col. Leffingwell planted the fine elms that now overshadow Broadway. Here were a tier of houses built before 1800, and occupied at the opening of the century by Rev. Walter King, Capt. Solomon Ingraham, and Thomas Coit, (afterward by Jabez Huntington.) Here also were the L'Hommedieu house and rope-walk, and the twin houses of Hezekiah Perkins and Capt. Z. P. Burnham. This row of buildings had the high granite ridge that projects into the center of Chelsea in their front. The triangular plot between the roads, now inclosed as the Little Park, was formerly called the Everett lot. It belonged to Col. Leffingwell, and after his death, was purchased jointly by Hezekiah Perkins and Jabez Huntington, and in 1811 presented by them to the city, on condition that it should be inclosed and used only as a park.

6. The residence of Thomas Mumford, embowered by large trees, with a spacious garden and several vacant lots on the south and east, comprising in all eight acres, occupied the plot at the head of Union street. Mr. Mumford died Aug. 30, 1799, and the place passed into the possession of Levi Huntington. The street forming a continuation of Broadway was opened in 1800 by Christopher Leffingwell and the heirs of Mumford.

7. The house which has been for nearly sixty years the residence of Joseph Williams, Esq., was built before 1800, by Capt. Samuel Freeman, and sold six years later to its present owner.

On leaving the Plain and turning the steep pitch of the hill, in the lower part of Union street, were the dwellings of Jeremiah Wilber, Lemuel Warren, Israel Everit, and Christopher Vaill.

These comprise all the householders that have been traced in this part of the town, at or near the beginning of the century. From that time forward, improvements ceased for many years. The next houses built in this quarter were those of Major Joseph Perkins and Russell Hubbard. The former, a solid stone mansion, was completed in 1825, Mr. Hubbard's the succeeding year.

A costly dwelling-house, combining various elements of beauty in structure, situation, and prospect, was erected by Charles Rockwell in 1833, on the height between Broadway and Washington streets. This was one of the first experiments in grading and cultivating this rugged



woodland ridge.\* Many other beautiful seats, with choice gardens and groves, have risen since that period to adorn this part of the town.

A considerable portion of Washington street was originally opened through land belonging to Col. Simon Lathrop, and here on the river side of the street a house was built in 1780 by Elijah Lathrop.

In 1795, Samuel Woodbridge purchased one of the Lathrop lots, and erected a dwelling-house in what was then considered a wild and secluded spot, but exceedingly beautiful in situation. A contemporary notice speaks of it as "an excellent place for rural retirement." This property was purchased in 1811 by Richard Adams, Esq., a gentleman from Essequibo, and has been known for the last fifty years as the residence of his family.†

The next house that made its appearance in this part of Washington street was erected by Theodore Barrell, an Englishman who had been in business at Barbadoes, and had several times visited Norwich for commercial purposes. He brought his family to the place in 1808, purchased a lot of the heirs of Rufus Lathrop, built upon it and continued his inhabitancy till 1824, when he sold his house and grounds to Wm. P. Greene, and removed to New London.

In the year 1809, the Lathrop house (built in 1780) was purchased by Mr. John Vernett, who had it removed to a position lower down on the same street, where it now stands.‡ On the site left vacant by the removed building, Mr. Vernett caused a new dwelling-house to be erected, at a cost and in a style of elegance beyond what had been previously exhibited in Norwich. The area purchased by him consisted of twenty-five acres, comprising six or eight choice building-lots. The land bordering on the Yantic in this vicinity still retains its native luxuriance, its varied surface and woodland beauty. A scientific or collegiate institution might here have found a well-adapted and beautiful site.§

Mr. Vernett was a native of Sarsbourg on the Rhine. Having acquired a handsome fortune by trade at St. Pierre, he designed to withdraw from business and spend the remainder of his life in retired leisure at Norwich. Scarcely were his family settled in their new residence, when he met with sudden embarrassments and losses which entirely deranged his plans, and he sold the place in 1811 to Benjamin Lee of Cambridge.

\* Sold by Mr. Rockwell to Capt. James L. Day, and purchased of the latter in 1862, by John F. Slater, Esq., who has in part remodeled the house and greatly improved the grounds.

† Mr. Adams had been here at school in his youth, and doubtless pleasant reminiscences of the place led him to select it as the future home of his family.

‡ Residence of late Lyman Brewer, Esq.

§ The elegant mansion of Wm. H. Law, Esq., now occupies a choice and prominent position in this valuable Vernett purchase.



These were the first noted houses of Washington street. They sprang up after a prosperous period of trade, to which the war with Great Britain in 1812 gave a crushing blow, and no others were built for twenty years. The next that appeared was that of William C. Gilman, completed in 1831.

Washington street is now skirted on either side with elegant and even princely mansions of more recent origin, exceedingly varied in position and style of architecture, but all indicative of taste, wealth, and home comfort.

The Breed family residence near the corner of Washington, Main and Church streets, is probably the most ancient house now remaining in Chelsea. It was built by Gershom Breed about the year 1760.

Church street was at first known as Upper or Third street. It was laid out along the steep side-hill, with the whole rocky height,—the elephantine granite back of Chelsea, crowned with woods,—towering in its rear. In 1800, the principal residents on this street were Shubael Breed, collector of U. S. revenue during the administration of the first President Adams, Nathaniel Peabody, Rev. John Tyler, and Dr. Lemuel Boswell. Capt. Benajah Leffingwell occupied the three-story house opposite Breed's corner, and there died Sept. 27, 1804. The next house to the westward was that of Capt. Oliver Fitch.

The principal householders in West Chelsea were Elijah Herrick, Jedidiah Willet, Dewey Bromley, Thomas Gavitt, Septimus Clark, Stephen Story, and Luther Edgerton. These men were all engaged in ship-building, or in some of the crafts connected with that business. A rope-walk, established by the Howlands in 1797, (owned of late years by John Breed & Co.,) has now been for nearly seventy years a conspicuous object upon the hill-side.

The Baptist meeting-house was raised in 1801.

The low brick building at the corner of Main and Union streets has the reputation of being the first brick edifice constructed in Norwich. It is not known when or by whom it was built. According to current tradition, it was occupied as a public house before the opening of the Revolutionary war, and at one time had the honor of entertaining and lodging General Washington and several officers of his staff. This was probably the night of the 30th of June, 1775,\* at which time Washington was on his way to

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\* It is probable that to this particular night spent at Norwich, Elisha Ayers, the wandering school-master from Preston, referred in a brief interview that he had with Washington at Mount Vernon, in 1788. The General was standing by his horse, prepared to ride to another part of his estate, when the traveler arrived. The details of the interview are given by the latter with amusing simplicity:

“He enquired my name and what part of Connecticut I was from. I told him about seven miles east of Norwich City and near Preston village. I know where Norwich is,



assume the command of the American army in the neighborhood of Boston. He arrived at Cambridge July 2d.

The brick corner was afterwards famous as an auction stand. John Richards, auctioneer, occupied the premises from 1800 onward for several years. It is still a low, square, flat-roofed building, as at first,—a cramped and homely structure, compared with its younger neighbors, but respected as one of the antiquities of the city.

Another old hotel stood in Water street, nearly in the rear of the Merchant's Bank, with its upper story on a level with Main street. Reuben Willoughby left the stand in 1804, for a new hotel in Shetucket street, since called the American House. Ralph Bolles was his successor in Water street, but removed in 1809 to the house built by Mr. Levi Huntington, after the fire of 1793, which he opened as the Chelsea Coffee House. This hotel was then situated in a breezy plot, open to the water, a sloping lawn in front graced with a row of poplars, and a garden enriched with fruit-trees. The house is yet extant, but time-worn, contracted, and defaced, its grounds transformed to streets, and high brick buildings overshadowing it on every side.

The Merchant's Hotel in Main street was built in 1797, by an association of business men, and in style and accommodation was far superior to any previous hotel in Norwich. Newcomb Kinney, one of the proprietors, was for many years the well-known and popular landlord.

In the early part of the century, East Chelsea, or Swallow-all, was noted as the hive of sea-captains. There was then no road to the river, nor to the present Greeneville; all the land in that direction lay in rough pasturage. East Main street was narrow and crooked. Wells, fences, gardens, shops and dwelling-houses projected far into the present street. The whole district was rugged with rocks and water-courses, frowned on by circumjacent hills and washed by frequent floods. Franklin street was *the road to Lisbon*. Here were the dwellings of Capts. Christopher Culver, Charles Rockwell, James N. Brown, John Sangar, and Seth Harding,—the latter usually called Commodore Harding. Other inhabitants were Jonathan Frisbie, Seabury Brewster, Judah Hart, Ezra Backus, Joseph Powers, and Timothy Fillmore.

A few of the old houses of this street, belonging to the last century,

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he said. I told him that I remembered the time when he and his aids staid a night at Norwich when he was on his way to the American army at Boston, and the next morning he went east to Preston village. At Preston village you were joined by Colonel Samuel Mott, a man that helped to conquer Canada from France, and there were two young recruiting captains for the Revolutionary war: one was Capt. Nathan Peters, and the other was Capt. Jeremiah Halsey. These went with you several miles on your journey to Boston. The General said, I remember something about it. I told him he went in sight of my father's house two miles north of Preston village. Very likely, he said. The General asked if I had been to breakfast," &c.

still remain,—Capt. Christopher Culver still occupies the dwelling that he purchased in 1800,—but the last of its venerable trees, a grand old button-wood, the landmark of a hundred years, was cut down in 1860.

In 1830, a great improvement was effected in East Chelsea by the opening of Franklin Square. In connection with this enterprise, the road was widened and graded, steeps were leveled, hollows filled up, fences and buildings removed. From this time onward, the march of improvement has never paused.

The streets east of Franklin, known as East Broad street and Boswell avenue, leading towards the old Providence road, have a date scarcely reaching beyond 1850, while the plateau of streets and houses north and east of there is of still more recent origin, having grown like a garden from a wilderness during the last six years. Previously it was a rough, unsightly tract, still populous with its native denizens, squirrel and woodchuck, partridge and rabbit, and on this account the haunt of sportsmen. A slaughter-house and two or three huts stood upon its borders, and a narrow, break-neck road, the old *riding-way* to the Shetucket, ran through it.

In this locality a plot of 55 acres, known as the Boswell farm, and listed for taxation at \$4,000, was purchased by Joseph G. Lamb in December, 1858. Through his enterprise in the way of clearing, draining, blasting, the rugged surface was graded, streets and building-lots were laid out and offered to purchasers on equitable terms. In 1864 it was divided among nearly fifty owners, mostly artizans and laborers, and contained thirty-two dwelling-houses occupied by forty-four families.

Lamb's Hill, the highest portion of this plot, is on a higher level than the highest church spire in the city, and offers to the eye a prospect of great beauty and variety.



## CHAPTER XLIV.

### SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES.

THE schools in Norwich were neither intermitted or neglected during the Revolutionary war. An institution of higher grade than elementary was sustained in the town-plot through all the distractions of the country. It called in many boarders from abroad, and at one period, with Mr. Goodrich for its principal, acquired considerable popularity. This school is endorsed by its committee, Andrew Huntington and Dudley Woodbridge, in 1783, as furnishing instruction to "young gentlemen and ladies, lads and misses, in every branch of literature, viz., reading, writing, arithmetic, the learned languages, logic, geography, mathematics," &c. Charles White, teacher.

The exhibitions of the school were commonly enlivened with scenic representations and interludes of music. A taste for such entertainments was prevalent. The young people, even after their emancipation from schools, would sometimes take part in theatrical representations. We learn from the town newspaper that in February, 1792, a select company of young ladies and gentlemen performed the tragedy of Gustavus and the Mistakes of a Night, at the court-house.

The school-ma'am of former times, with her swarming hive of pupils, was an institution of which no sample remains at the present day. She was a life-long incumbent, never going out of one round of performance: always teaching little girls and boys to sit up straight and treat their elders with respect; to conquer the spelling-book, repeat the catechism, never throw stones, never tell a lie; the boys to write copies, and the girls to work samplers. If they sought higher education than this, they passed out of her domain into finishing schools. Almost every neighborhood had its school-ma'am, and the memory is still fresh of Miss Sally Smith at the Landing and Miss Molly Grover of the Town-plot.

Dancing-schools were peculiarly nomadic in their character; the instructor (generally a Frenchman) circulating through a wide district and giving lessons for a few weeks at particular points. Reels, jigs and contra-dances were most in vogue: the hornpipe and rigadoon were attempted by only a select few; cotillions were growing in favor; the minuet much

admired. In October, 1787, Griffith's dancing-school was opened at the house of Mrs. Billings in the town-plot. He taught five different minuets, one of them a duo, and another a cotillion-minuet. His lessons were given in the morning, with a scholar's ball once a fortnight.

Ten years later, J. C. Devereux was a popular teacher of the dance. He had large classes for several seasons at the court-house, and at Kinney's hotel in Chelsea.

In 1799, a school for young ladies was opened in the house of Major Whiting upon the Little Plain, by Mrs. Brooks, who devoted herself especially to feminine accomplishments, such as tambour, embroidery, painting in water-colors, instrumental music, and the French language. She had at first a large number of pupils from this and the neighboring towns, but the attendance soon declined, and the school was relinquished. In general the young ladies at such schools only remained long enough to practice a few tunes on the guitar, to tambour a muslin shawl and apron, or embroider a scripture scene, and this gave the finishing stroke to their education.

It was common then, as it is now, for parents with liberal means to send both their sons and daughters from home to obtain greater educational advantages. Young ladies from Norwich often went to Boston to finish their education, and now and then one was placed under the guardian care and instruction of the Moravian sisterhood in their seminary at Bethlehem, Penn.

In 1782, an academical association was formed in the western part of the town-plot, consisting of forty-one subscribers and one hundred shares or rights. The old meeting-house of the Separatists was purchased and repaired for the use of this institution. The first principal was Samuel Austin, and the range of studies included Latin and Greek, navigation and the mathematics. Two popular school-books then just issued were introduced by Mr. Austin into this school,—Webster's Grammatical Institutes, and Geography made easy by Jedidiah Morse. Mr. Morse was himself subsequently a teacher in this institution, which was continued with varying degrees of prosperity for thirty years or more.

Alexander Macdonald, author of a school-book called the Youth's Assistant, was one of its teachers. He died May 4, 1792, aged 40. Newcomb Kinney was at one time the principal, and had for his usher, John Russ of Hartford, afterward member of Congress from 1819 to 1823. In 1800, Sebastian C. Cabot was the chief instructor. This school was kept in operation about thirty years. After it ceased, the lower part of the building was occupied by the public school, and the upper part, being suitably prepared, was in use for nearly twenty years as a Methodist chapel.

Dr. Daniel Lathrop, who died in 1782, left a legacy of £500 to the



town for the support of a free grammar school, upon certain conditions, one of which was that the school should be kept during eleven months of each year.\* A school upon this foundation was opened in 1787, and continued for about fifty years. The brick school-house upon the green was built for its accommodation. Its first teacher was Ebenezer Punderson.† But the most noted of its preceptors and the one who longest held his place, was Mr. William Baldwin; an excellent instructor, faithful and apt to teach, but a rigid disciplinarian, and consequently more respected than beloved by his pupils, until after life led them to reverse the decisions of earlier days. The young have seldom judgment and generosity sufficient to make them love those who control them for their good.

In 1843, the Lathrop donation was relinquished, with the consent of the Legislature, to the heirs-at-law of Thomas Coit, a nephew of Dr. Lathrop, to whom by the provision of the testator's will, it was in such case to revert. The investment had depreciated in value, and the restrictions with which the legacy was incumbered made it, in the advanced state of educational institutions, more of a hindrance than a help. The school had been for many years a great advantage to the town, but having accomplished its mission, it quietly ceased to be.

Evening schools of short duration, devoted to some special study, were not uncommon. The object was usually of a practical nature, and the students above childhood. The evening school of Consider Sterry, in 1798, covered, according to his program, the following range of instruction :

“Book-keeping in the Italian, American and English methods, mathematics, surveying and plotting of lands ; price 1s. 6d. per week.

“Navigation and the method of finding longitude by lunar observations and latitude by the sun's altitude, one dollar for the complete knowledge.”

Few men are gifted by nature with such an aptitude for scientific research as Consider Sterry. His attainments were all self-acquired under great disadvantages. Besides a work on lunar observations, he and his brother prepared an arithmetic for schools, and in company with Nathan Daboll, another self-taught scientific genius, he arranged and edited a system of practical navigation, entitled “The Seaman's Universal Daily Assistant,” a work of nearly three hundred pages. He also published

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\* Dr. Daniel Lathrop left also a legacy of five hundred pounds to Yale College, without any restrictions.

† If this Ebenezer Punderson, who in 1787 was the accepted teacher of the Lathrop school, was, as is most probable, the teacher of that name who in 1776 was arrested for drinking tea and afterward had his property confiscated as a tory, it shows that party prejudices must have died away very soon after the war.

several small treatises, wrote political articles for the papers, and took a profound interest in freemasonry.

In June, 1800, a school was inaugurated at the brick house on the Little Plain, with Mr. William Woodbridge for the principal. The assembly room was fitted up with desks and benches for an academical hall; both sexes were admitted, and the whole was under the supervision of a board of four citizens,—

Joseph Howland,  
Samuel Woodbridge,

Thomas Fanning,  
Thomas Lathrop.

But the situation was too remote from the centers of population, and after a trial of two or three years, this school was relinquished for want of patronage.

A select school for young persons of both sexes was long sustained in the town-plot, but with varying tides of prosperity and decline. After a void of two or three years, it was revived in 1803 by Pelatiah Perit, who had just then graduated from Yale College, and was only eighteen years of age. Lydia Huntley, afterwards Mrs. Sigourney, was one of his pupils.

Among other teachers of the town-plot, who were subsequently honorable and noted in their several callings, the following are well remembered :

Daniel Haskell, President of the Vermont University.

Henry Strong, LL. D., eminent in the law.

John Hyde, Judge of County Court, Judge of Probate, &c.

Dr. Peter Allen, a physician in Ohio.

Rev. Joshua L. Williams, of Middletown.

J. Bates Murdock, afterwards an officer of the second war with Great Britain.

Phineas L. Tracy, who from 1827 to 1833 was M. C. from Genessee county, N. Y.

A proprietary school was established at the Landing in 1797, by twenty-seven heads of families. The school-house was built on the slope of the hill above Church street, and the school was assembled and organized by the Rev. Walter King. David L. Dodge was the first regular teacher.\*

In 1802, the Rev. Thomas Williams was the preceptor. He was noted for his assiduous attention to the health and morals, as well as the studies of his pupils. He drilled them thoroughly in the Assembly's Catechism,

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\* Mr. Dodge was a native of Brooklyn, Ct. He came to Norwich in 1796, and opened a school, boarding in the family of Aaron Cleveland, whose daughter he subsequently married.



and used with his younger classes a favorite manual called the Catechism of Nature.\*

Other teachers of this school were Mr. Scarborough, Ebenezer Witter, John Lord, (President of Dartmouth College,) George Hill, &c. But no one retained the office for so long a term as Dyar T. Hinckley of Windham, a man of earnest zeal in his profession, who was master of deck and bench in Norwich for twenty years or more, yet never removed his family or obtained a regular home in the place. He was a school-master of the old New England type, devoted to his profession as an ulterior pursuit, and expending his best energies in the performance of its duties.

Schools at that period consisted uniformly of two sessions a day, of three hours each, with a half-holiday on Saturday. Mr. Hinckley, in addition to this, had sometimes an evening or morning school, or both, of two hours each, for pupils not belonging to the day-school. The morning hours were devoted to young ladies, and from an advertisement of May, 1816, giving notice of a new term, we ascertain the precise time when the class assembled. "*Hours from 5 o'clock to 7 A. M.*"

Let no one hastily assume that this early summons would be neglected. Living witnesses remain to testify that it drew in a goodly number of young aspirants, who came out, fresh and vigorous, at sunrise or a little later, to pursue their studies.†

Another institution that made its mark upon society was the Chelsea Grammar School, organized in 1806, but not incorporated till 1821, when it was impowered to hold real estate to the value of \$20,000.‡ The school-house was on the side-hill opposite the Little Park, in Union street. This institution continued in operation, with some vacant intervals, about

\* Mr. Williams is living in 1865, at Providence, aged 86. He received a part of his early education in Norwich, having attended school in the town-plot about the year 1792,—a pupil first of Mr. Baldwin, and afterward of Newcomb Kinney.

† A similar school was kept by Nathan Hale at New London. In a letter from that place, May 24, 1774, after speaking of his grammar school, he says: "In addition to this, I have kept during the summer, a morning school between the hours of five and seven, of about 20 young ladies; for which I have received 6s. a scholar, by the quarter." Stuart's Life of Hale, p. 25.

‡ The original proprietors of this Grammar School, who purchased the land and built the house, were

Gurdon Bill,  
Z. P. Burnham,  
Benjamin Coit,  
Calvin Goddard,  
William S. Hart,  
Jabez Huntington,  
Levi Huntington,  
Walter King,

James Lanman,  
Grover L'Hommedieu,  
Andrew Perkins,  
Augustus Perkins,  
Hezekiah Perkins,  
Dwight Ripley.  
Charles Rockwell,  
Joseph Williams



forty years, securing for its patrons the benefits of an academical education for their children without sending them from home. Many prominent citizens of Norwich here received their first introduction to the classics,—the sons in numerous instances taking possession of seats once occupied by their fathers.

No complete list of the preceptors has been obtained; but among the remembered names are several that have since been distinguished in literary and professional pursuits,—Dr. Jonathan Knight of New Haven, Charles Griswold of Lyme, Jonathan Barnes, Wyllis Warner, Roswell C. Smith, Rev. Horace Bushnell, D. D., and Rev. Wm. Adams, D. D.

These men were all young at the time. The preceptors of most schools, here and elsewhere, at that period, were college graduates, accepting the office for a year, or at most for two or three years, between taking their degree and entering upon some other profession. But teachers to whom the vocation is but a stepping-stone to something beyond on which the mind is fixed, however faithful and earnest in their present duties, can never raise an institution to any permanent standard of excellence. It is well therefore that these temporary undertakings should give way to public schools more thoroughly systematized and conducted by persons who make teaching a profession.

In Chelsea, beginning about 1825, a series of expedients for enlarging the bounds of knowledge afford pleasing evidence of the gradual expansion of intellect and enterprise. A lyceum, a circulating library, a reading club, a society for mutual improvement, and a mechanics' association, were successively started, and though most of them were of brief duration, they were cheering tokens of an advance in the right path.

The Norwich Female Academy was incorporated in 1828. This institution was greatly indebted for its origin to the persevering exertions of Mr. Thomas Robinson, who was the principal agent of the corporation. The brick hall erected for its accommodation stood on the hill facing the river, higher than any other building then on the declivity.

Neither court-house nor jail had gained a foothold on the height, which was well forested, and toward the north surmounted by a fine prospect station, overtopping the woods, and known as Rockwell's Tower. The academy had the rugged hill for its back-ground, but on other sides the view was varied and extensive; and when at recess the fair young pupils spread in joyous freedom over the height, often returning with wild flowers and oak-leaf garlands from the neighboring groves, neither poetry nor romance could exaggerate the interest of the scene.

The most prosperous year of this academy was 1833, when the number of pupils amounted to nearly ninety, many of them boarders from other places. But the exposed situation of the building, and the rough, steep ascent by which only it could be reached, were adverse to the prosperity



of a female academy, and it soon became extinct,—disbanded by wintry blasts and icy foot-paths.

In the meantime axe and hammer had begun their steady progress up the declivity. The jail was erected on the summit, and the town house on the slope of the hill. The Rev. Mr. Paddock built his house upon the height in 1835; other dwellings soon made their appearance; the trees fell, streets were laid out, and before the academy finally ceased, the beautiful retirement of the hill and every shred of romance had passed away.\*

In the mental improvement of females, Norwich, first and last, appears to have taken a more than common interest. Numerous private schools established for their benefit, of an elevating character, though transitory in duration, attest the truth of this remark. In 1812, Misses L. Huntley (afterward L. H. Sigourney) and Nancy Maria Hyde opened in Chelsea a select school for young ladies, which was continued however but little more than a year.

In later days, Miss Jane Ingersoll of Springfield has gathered here at different periods interesting classes of pupils. The excellent family and day school of Claudius B. Webster, begun in 1845, was sustained for fifteen years with undiminished favor. But the improvement of the common schools, and the institution of the Free Academy, which is open alike to both sexes and all classes of the community, offering also a wide range for study, supersedes in a great measure all private undertakings, or at least renders their establishment less imperative.

The common or free schools of former times were mostly of a primary character. The State excise money and the town rates, which were appropriated by law to educational purposes, were not devoted to grammar schools, but expended for instruction in the common branches useful to both sexes in every-day life. When the land belonging to Connecticut in the State of Ohio, called the Western Reserve, was sold, the proceeds were set apart by an act of the Legislature for a School Fund, the interest to be distributed through all the districts of the State in proportion to the number of children:†

At Norwich the first school-meeting under this act was held in October,

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\* One exception must be made. A plot of three or four acres on the hill, belonging to the late Wm. S. Tyler, has been carefully shielded from change. The old trees, the old paths, the old stone steps, have been allowed to remain. It was part of an original grant to Richard Bushnell, and has never been alienated,—descending from Benajah Bushnell, son of Richard, to his daughter Elizabeth, who married Dea. Isaac Tracy, whose daughter Hannah was the wife of Rev. John Tyler, D. D.

† Gen. Joseph Williams of Norwich was an influential member of the General Assembly between 1792 and 1796, and it has been said that the first proposition to devote the proceeds of the western lands for the support of schools, came from him.



1796. In Chelsea the number of householders warned to attend was 145.\*

The schools established on this basis were at first chiefly of an elementary character, and gathered in but few pupils from those ranks in society that were able to patronize the select schools. The first in Norwich of which any certain data has been obtained, established on the State Fund foundation and called distinctively the Free School, was begun at Chelsea in June, 1799; Rufus Robbins, preceptor.

For many years these district schools, invaluable as they were in the benefits they conferred, were yet far below the highest attainable standard of usefulness. They were entirely dissociated; each district managing its own school by a committee. A change of system seemed desirable. The subject was brought up in public meetings and freely discussed. Many of the citizens took a decided stand in favor of a new organization of the schools. William C. Gilman was one of the prominent advocates of a more complete and energetic course of instruction.

In 1839, Greeneville took the lead in the march of improvement, consolidating her two districts and establishing a high school without opposition. This important change was effected chiefly through the agency of William H. Coit of Greeneville.

In the other city districts the project met with strenuous opposition. There was a conflict of opinions and of plans, which continued, or was reproduced from year to year, for nearly twelve years. But at last all parties united in favor of reform and progress, and a change of system was effected.†

Adjoining districts were consolidated, a system of graded schools inaugurated, and upwards of \$50,000 expended in buildings for their accommodation. These improvements were made between 1855 and 1858. A high school was left out of the plan, this necessity being supplied by the establishment of the Free Academy.

The Central School-house, a building of noble dimensions and wise adaptation to its uses, stands on the east side of Broadway, in an eligible and airy position. It is built of brick, with free-stone dressings; is three stories high, and well supplied with furnaces and cisterns. This edifice is considered the finest in appearance, position, and convenience, of any common school-house in Connecticut.

It was dedicated Sept. 3, 1855; cost \$40,000. J. W. Allen, a graduate

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\* The family names were 89: of Leffingwells *seven*, which was the largest number of one name.

† "The erection of this beautiful building [Norwich Central School-house] marks the successful termination of one of the most protracted and severe educational struggles ever witnessed in our State." Report of Supt. of Public Schools of Connecticut, for 1856.



of the Wesleyan University, has been the Principal of this institution from its commencement.

The other school-houses are also on a liberal scale. That of the Falls district, in Sachem street, was completed in 1856, at a cost of \$10,000. The older structures of other districts have all been enlarged or refitted to render them convenient and appropriate to the graded system.

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### THE FREE ACADEMY.

This establishment is a magnificent illustration of what can be accomplished by enlightened forethought, persevering enterprise, and large-hearted liberality. It was founded, endowed, the building erected, the library commenced, and the apparatus furnished, by private generosity. Three individuals in the first instance gave over \$10,000 each, and the whole amount, about \$100,000, was subscribed by forty persons. Half of this sum was invested for a permanent endowment.

The project originated with the Rev. John P. Gulliver, and to his unwearied exertions in collecting and disseminating information, awakening interest, and maturing the plan of operation, owes in great measure its success. The object which the founders had in view was not only to secure a course of instruction in the higher branches, so that young persons might here be prepared to enter upon the different callings of life, as mechanics, merchants, navigators, scholars, agriculturists, or professional men, but as the grand result, the Academy was expected to become the means and instrument of elevating the standard of the common schools, and of bringing them into a system of gradation and harmonious co-operation.

Mr. Gulliver's circular, explaining the objects of the proposed institution and appealing to the citizens for aid and encouragement, was issued in 1853. The academy was incorporated in 1854, upon petition of Russell Hubbard, William P. Greene, William A. Buckingham, William Williams, and other individuals, to the number of thirty-five, who were the original subscribers to the fund.\*

The building stands in a noble position, with the park in front, and a picturesque range of hills in the rear. It is in the Norman style of architecture, with a lofty tower, and is constructed of rough brick covered with mastic, and finished with free-stone dressings.† Cost, \$35,000.

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\* The list of donors was afterward increased to forty.

† Evan Burdick of Norwich is the architect of the Free Academy, the Central School House, the Broadway Congregational Church, the Wauregan Hotel, and several other public buildings of the city. Many elegant private residences have also been constructed under his direction.



The site with its ample surrounding area, about seven acres in all, was the gift of General Williams. The back-ground is a woodland height, rocky and uncultured, where nature retains its original wild aspect, beautifully contrasting with the verdant lawn below.

The library, with \$5,000 funded for its increase, was presented by Mrs. Harriet Peck Williams, to be called the Peck Library, as a tribute of affectionate respect to the memory of her father, Capt. Bela Peck. The books selected for this library, as far as the purchases have been made, are of lasting value, consisting chiefly of the best English editions of the best authors. It has the *Bibliotheca Classica*, 145 volumes, and the *Edinburg* and *Quarterly Reviews* from their beginning.

The apparatus was furnished by Russell Hubbard and John F. Slater, and several handsome contributions have been made toward the foundation of a scientific cabinet.

In the year 1859, another agreeable and important addition was made to the facilities of the institution, by the generous gift of a house and grounds for the use of the Principal, by Mrs. Wm. P. Greene.\*

The Academy was dedicated with appropriate services, Oct. 21, 1856, and the course of instruction commenced soon afterward.

This institution is entirely independent of popular control, and as an endowed free school, may be considered as combining the promise of permanence and efficiency. The corporation supplies its own vacancies and elects the trustees, who, during their term of office, have the entire charge of the institution.

In the course of instruction it forms a link between the college and the common school. But as it receives scholars of either sex from all classes and conditions in life, it is expected to be not only a classical and scientific school, but to give attention also to practical principles and polite literature.†

The first President of the Board of Trustees was Russell Hubbard, who retained the office till his death in 1857, (June 7.)

The second President was William P. Greene, who died June 18, 1864.

Third President, William Williams. Ebenezer Learned, Secretary and Treasurer from the beginning.

The Free Academy went into operation under Mr. Elbridge Smith as Principal, who continued in office to the close of the ninth year, July, 1865. Mr. Smith is a native of Wayland, Mass., and a graduate of

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\* The various donations to the Academy from Wm. P. Greene, and his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Augusta Greene, amounted to \$40,000.

† For a more definite and complete history of those educational movements in Norwich which led to the present organization of the schools and the establishment of the endowed school or Free Academy, see Address of Rev. J. P. Gulliver at the Dedication of the Academy.



Brown University. He was previously Principal of the High School at Cambridge, Mass.

He was succeeded in September, 1865, by the Rev. William Hutchison, formerly Tutor in Yale College, and recently Principal of the Lawrence Academy at Groton, Mass. Mr. Hutchison was ordained as a missionary in 1858, and went to Constantinople with the expectation of establishing a mission in Turkey, but the failing health of his family obliged him to relinquish the design.

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Mr. Russell Hubbard was an early and efficient patron of the Free Academy, contributing about \$11,000 towards its establishment. He was one of the trustees to manage the funds and erect buildings, and the first president of the board. The Hubbard Rhetorical Society, connected with the Academy, perpetuates his name.

He was a descendant of Capt. Russell Hubbard, a shipping merchant of New London, who removed to Norwich during the Revolutionary war, and died at his residence near the town green in 1785, leaving two sons, Thomas, the well-known proprietor of the Norwich Courier, and Russell, a ship-master, who died at sea in 1800, unmarried.\*

Thomas Hubbard, the printer, married Mary, daughter of Amos Halam of New London. While residing in the town-plot, he occupied what was called the Whiting house, (now owned by William Fitch, Esq.,) and here his three sons, Thomas, Russell, and Amos H., were born. He afterwards removed to the Landing, and there died in 1808.

Russell Hubbard, as partner and successor of his father, published the Courier for twenty years. He was afterwards engaged with his brother in the manufacture of paper. Years of diligent attention to business led the way to a handsome fortune, which he dispensed with conscientious liberality.

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\* The daughters of Capt. Hubbard were, Mary, wife of David Nevins; Martha, who married David Wright, an attorney of New London; and Susannah, who married 1st, Ebenezer Bushnell, and 2d, Robert Manwaring.

## CHAPTER XLV.

### THE LARGEST FIRE. CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETIES AND CHURCHES.

Nov. 26, 1793, fifteen buildings were destroyed by fire in Chelsea, viz., the Congregational meeting-house, four dwelling-houses, six stores and shops, and four barns.

This was the largest fire ever known in Norwich. It raged from six to ten o'clock P. M., wind fresh from the north-west. It broke out in a store belonging to Messrs. Hubbard & Greene, of Boston, and was supposed to have been communicated through a fissure in the chimney to some paper-rags piled against it. This building stood on Water street, nearly in the range of the present post-office, and the fire swept away every thing combustible from thence to the junction of Main street, and crossing that street, consumed the large store of Levi Huntington, full of goods, the Congregational meeting-house,\* and every building on that side from thence to the river, except the old Norman house, now Thames hotel. Even the woods over the river caught fire from the flaming cinders, and added to the splendor of the conflagration. The dwelling-houses of Lynde M'Curdy, Levi Huntington,† and Benadam Denison, and stores occupied by Capt. William Coit, Coit & Lathrop, Andrew & Joseph Perkins, Hezekiah Perkins & Co., George Cleveland, and that of Levi Huntington before mentioned, were destroyed. Two persons were badly wounded.

Most of the buildings were old and comparatively of small value, and a large portion of the goods was saved; but there was no insurance on any of the property. There was at this time a fire-engine of small power in Norwich, which was brought out on this occasion, but the hose broke at the first trial, and little could be done to arrest the flames. Loss estimated at £8,000,—a small sum compared with the extent of the fire.

Mr. King's congregation being thus deprived of a house for public worship, assembled for three successive months in the Episcopal church, which was tendered to them by the trustees. A room was then fitted up for a

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\* Rev. Mr. King rushed into the burning church and brought out the pulpit Bible, a folio edition that had been recently purchased.

† Mr. Huntington rebuilt his house over the old cellar: it was afterwards known as the Bolles tavern, and is still extant.



temporary place of worship, and immediate measures were taken to build another meeting-house. Mr. Joseph Howland and Mr. Thomas Fanning, owners of two lots of land on the hill, opposite the dwellings of the Rev. John Tyler and Dr. Lemuel Boswell, offered these lots, together with £17 10s., lawful money, in exchange for the lot on which the old meeting-house stood. This site was approved by the county court, and has ever since been the seat of the Society church. To defray the expense of building, a lottery to raise £850 was granted by the Legislature.\* The Society consisted of 49 members. Joseph Williams, Lynde M'Curdy, Joseph Howland, Joseph Perkins and Thomas Coit constituted the building committee.

The work was completed during the year 1795, and the dedication sermon preached by the pastor on Thanksgiving day, Dec. 24th.

The dimensions of this edifice were 42 feet by 62. It was surmounted by a belfry and a short spire, and was painted white outside and green within. The pulpit was partly formed by a recess in the wall,† and the pews were so high that when seated, only tall persons could raise the head and shoulders above the sides. It remained in this style until a considerable advance had been made into the present century; the house was then enlarged, and the pews changed into slips.

Precautions were taken to secure the building against fire, and among other regulations, the sexton was allowed to demand a quarter of a dollar for every foot-stove left in the house after the meetings were ended.

This great fire of 1793 quickened public opinion in regard to the benefits to be derived from insurance. Within twenty days after the catastrophe, the inhabitants were invited by a committee, consisting of Ebenezer Huntington, Joseph Perkins, Joshua Huntington and Roger Griswold, to meet at the court-house and form an association against future calamitous losses. A company was organized, chartered, and went into operation in 1795, under the title of the "Mutual Assurance Company," for insuring houses and other buildings from losses by fire: the badge, *Mutual Assurance*, and the policies to run seven years.

The characteristics of the pastor, Mr. King, were earnest piety and an active, glowing zeal. No personal issues could induce him to deflect a hair's breadth from what he considered duty. In the year 1810, a very serious and unhappy controversy arose in the church respecting marriage with a wife's sister. Were such connections sanctioned or forbidden by Scripture? The pastor, taking the side of prohibition, disagreed with a

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\* Donations from individuals were added to this sum. Thomas Shaw of New London gave \$262, and Joseph Williams of Norwich 131, being their shares of prizes in the lottery.

† Called in the accounts, "a scooped-out pulpit."



majority of his flock. The subject was discussed and explained, in public and in private, by word of mouth, by pen and by print, till the whole congregation shared in the excitement. The harmony and affection that had existed between Mr. King and his people being thus interrupted, a change of relation became desirable.

The next year, the pastor, church and society united in calling a council which met July 3d, and consisted of the ministers and delegates of nine churches in different parts of the State. This council sat three days, and voted to dissolve the connection between Mr. King and the people of his charge.\*

The society vote concurring in his dismissal stood 32 to 19. Mr. King's farewell discourse was delivered Aug. 18, 1811, from the text,—“We shall all stand before the judgment-seat of Christ.” He was subsequently settled at Williamstown, Mass., and there on the first day of December, 1815, while in the pulpit, engaged in the services of a sacramental lecture, the death-stroke came, and he was suddenly translated to a higher sphere. He was 57 years of age.

The successor of Mr. King, Rev. Asahel Hooker, was installed Jan. 16, 1812; sermon by Dr. Nott of Franklin. He was a descendant of the Rev. Thomas Hooker, the first minister of Hartford, and had been previously settled at Goshen, in Litchfield county, from which place, after eighteen years of service, he had been dismissed on account of the utter prostration of his health. In Norwich he had but a brief pastorate of fifteen months,—a sufficient period, however, for the hearts of his people to become bound to him by strong ties of personal attachment. He died April 19, 1813, aged 49 years.

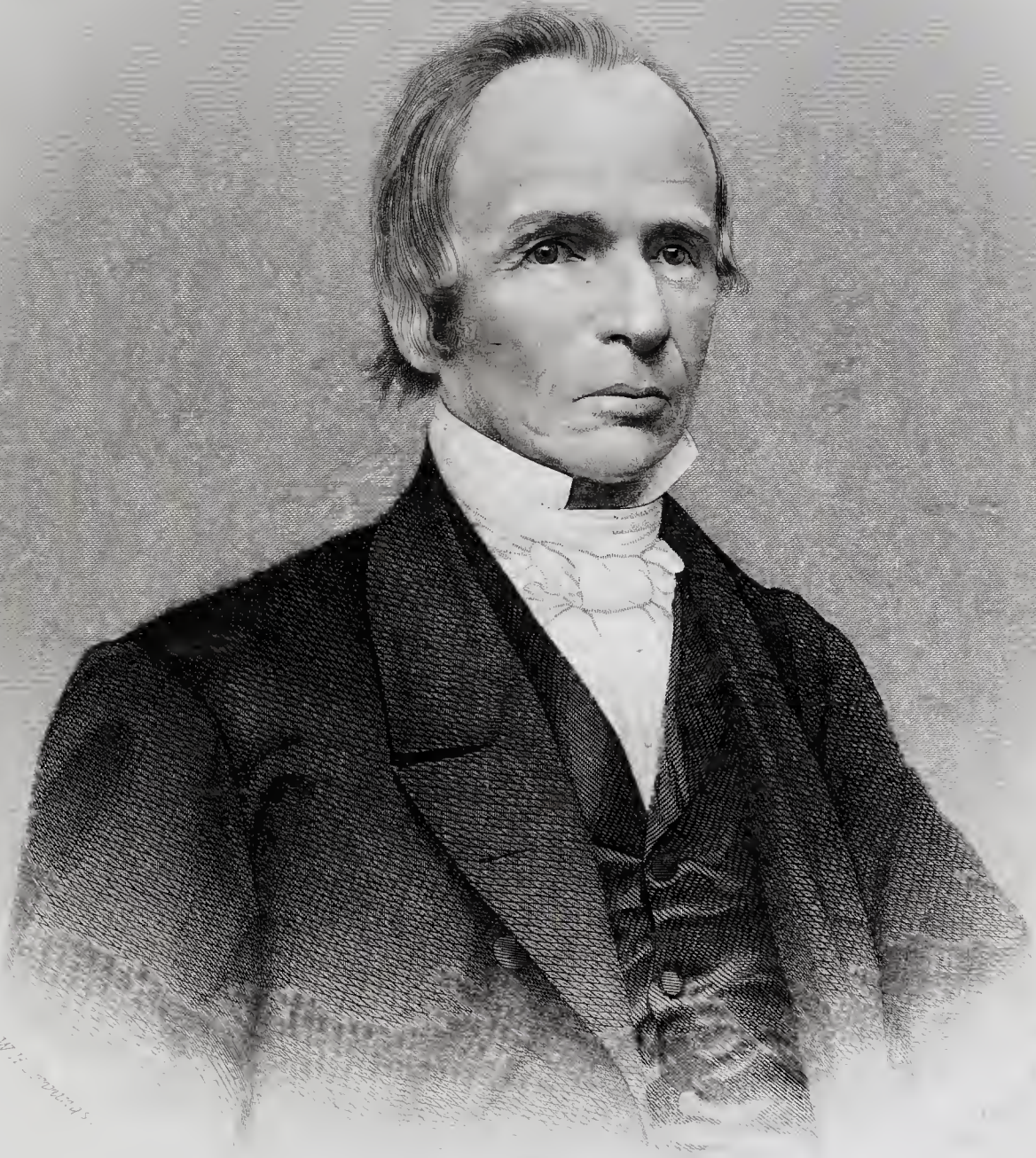
Rev. Alfred Mitchell, the fifth minister, was ordained Oct. 27, 1814. He was a son of Hon. Stephen Mix Mitchell, of Wethersfield; graduated at Yale in 1809, and studied theology at Andover. His pastorate was eminently prosperous. Large accessions were made to the church; 114 being added during the last two years of his ministry, of whom 44 were admitted at one time, March 4, 1830. Mr. Mitchell was a man of reticent manners, but as a gospel messenger, faithful and fearless. He died at the age of 41, Dec. 19, 1831, uttering in submissive faith as he departed, “The will of the Lord be done.”

The two last-named ministers are interred in the Chelsea burial-ground.

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\* The week in which this council met was remarkable for the extreme heat of the weather, and the members, especially the more corpulent dignitaries, suffered severely. Among the members were Rev. Azel Backus of Bethlchem, Ct., and his delegate, David Bellamy, both men of such uncommon size that they could not sit side by side in the same vehicle, but each came in his one-horse-chaise, which he entirely filled. Mr. Bellamy was a son of the old divine of Bethlehem, and weighed, it is said, 350 lbs.; Dr. Backus about the same.





W. H. P. 1848





From the graves where they rest, the eye can survey the scene of their labors, and almost count the homes of that attached people who listened with such deep attention to their instructions, and followed them mourning to their tombs.

Rev. James T. Dickinson, a graduate of Yale College in 1826, was ordained April 4, 1832: sermon by Dr. Taylor of New Haven, under whose professional tuition the candidate had been prepared for the pulpit.

Another large accession was made to the church in 1834, which was regarded as the result of a protracted meeting held by the pastor in connection with Rev. Horatio N. Foote, a noted revivalist preacher. The whole number added to the church from 1830 to 1834 inclusive, was 284: 229 by profession,—making, in 1835, the number of resident members, 325; the society consisting at that time of about 130 families, or 600 persons.

After a ministry of little more than two years, Mr. Dickinson requested a dismission in order to prepare himself for a foreign mission, which he considered it his duty to undertake. The church, appreciating his motives, acquiesced in his wishes, and the separation was accomplished without any diminution of mutual esteem and affection, May 20, 1834.

His successor at Norwich, after a considerable interval, was Rev. Alvan Bond, previously Professor of Sacred Literature in the Theological Seminary at Bangor, Maine, and at an earlier date, pastor of the Congregational Church at Sturbridge, Mass. He was installed May 6, 1835; sermon by Rev. Dr. Hawes of Hartford.

Dr. Bond is a native of Sutton, Mass., born April 27, 1793. He graduated at Brown University, and has received the degree of D. D. from the same institution. In May, 1860, he preached at Norwich his quarter-centennial sermon, and in July of that year delivered a discourse, historical and commemorative, on the hundredth anniversary of the organization of the church. Near the close of 1864, on account of age and impaired health, he resigned his charge. His pastorate of twenty-nine years is the longest of this church. He still resides in Norwich under the shadow of the vine which has so long been fostered by his care.

Rev. M. G. W. Dana was installed his successor, Dec. 28, 1864. Sermon by Prof. Hitchcock of Union Theological Seminary, New York.

This society comprises about 200 families, and the church has upwards of 300 members. Since the installation of Mr. Dana, a parsonage has been built, at an expense of \$10,000, which amount was raised by subscription in sums of \$500 and \$1000. Mr. Dana is the eighth minister of the society.

In the spring of 1844, the church (built in 1795) took fire, and though not wholly consumed, was so much injured that the society decided not to attempt a reconstruction. The whole edifice was demolished, and a new



church erected upon the same site, which was dedicated Jan. 1, 1846,—fifty years after the dedication of its predecessor. The society had occupied the Central Baptist Church, by an amicable arrangement with its proprietors, for twenty-two months.

Two of the clergymen that assisted in the dedication of the new church excited a more than common interest: the Rev. Eli Smith, of the Syrian mission, who was on his last visit home from his important field of labor; and the Rev. Dr. Nott of Franklin, then in the 92d year of his age.

The material used in this building was dark blue granite from a neighboring quarry, worked rough-hewn in tiers, and the style of architecture, Roman; expense about \$14,000. Ten years afterward it was repaired and improved at an additional expense of \$6,000. It is the house now occupied by this worshiping assembly, and will accommodate an audience of 800. The organ was the gift of Joseph Otis, Esq.

The Second Church was the pioneer of Sabbath Schools in this part of Connecticut, and has well sustained its reputation by persevering efficiency in this department. The Sabbath School enterprise began in July, 1815, with a class of five African boys, who were collected and taught by Chas. F. Harrington, at his house in Franklin street, and by him induced to attend church. The number gradually increased, and Mr. Harrington's success led others to engage in similar plans.

The next year, in July, a Sabbath School, designed chiefly to benefit the poor, was begun by members of the Congregational and Episcopal societies. The prospect was encouraging, and at a meeting held in the ball-room at Kinney's hotel, Oct. 11, 1816, a Union Sabbath School Society was regularly organized and a constitution adopted. Rev. John Tyler of the Episcopal Church was chosen president; Rev. Messrs. Mitchell, Sterry and Bentley, vice-presidents; George L. Perkins, secretary.

This organization comprehended the African school. The superintendents were Charles F. Harrington, Asa Roath, and Dyar T. Hinckley. The female department was under the supervision of Miss C. M. Marvin.\* Three young men, Charles Rockwell, Asa Hosmer, and Leonard Perkins, were efficient assistants both in gathering the scholars and in teaching classes.

In January, 1817, a prosperous condition of the schools was reported: girls, 47; boys, 48; Africans, 41. The last-named were of both sexes, between six and fifty-six years of age,—some of them learning to read, and the average attendance from twenty to thirty.

We have no further statistics of this Union organization. It seems to have dropped quietly apart, leaving only the Congregationalists to con-

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\* This lady was a daughter of Gen. Elihu Marvin. She married Rev. L. F. Dimmock, D. D., of Newburyport, Mass., who, after her death, published a small memorial volume in commemoration of her worth.



tinue the school, which being taken under the wing of the Second Church, assumed a permanent and definite form. In 1818, William C. Gilman (who had been one of the Union committee) was chosen superintendent, and the school since that period has been continued without interruption, summer and winter.

The late Dea. Horace Colton was an early and efficient supporter of the Sabbath School enterprise. Col. Charles Coit was connected with the school for thirty years, and fourteen years its superintendent. These were men of practical piety, faithfully devoting themselves to the advancement of Christian culture.\*

Members of the Second Church have enlisted with commendable zeal in establishing Sabbath Schools in the neighboring districts, where such assistance is timely and important. In a rugged portion of West Chelsea they have erected a neat building for a school-house and mission chapel, (dedicated in December, 1859,) and by their labors and influence have assisted largely in a transformation of the district, which is significantly expressed in the change of name from *Hard-scrabble* to *Mt. Pleasant*.

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*Pastorates of the first century recapitulated.*

Church organized July 24, 1760.

Whitaker,	8 yrs. 8 mos.	Mitchell,	17 yrs. 2 mos.
Vacant,	2 " 6 "	Vacant,	3½ "
Judson,	7 " 3 "	Dickinson,	2 " 4½ "
Vacant,	8 " 5 "	Vacant,	8½ "
King,	24 " 3 "	Bond,	25 " 2½ "
Vacant,	5 "	(to July, 1860.)	
Hooker,	1 " 3 "	Total, 100 years.	
Vacant,	1 " 6 "		

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*Salaries of Ministers.*

Whitaker and Judson, £100 per annum.

King, £125, gradually increased to \$600.

Hooker and Mitchell, \$700.

Dickinson, \$1,000.

Bond, \$1,000, gradually increased to \$2,000.

Dana, \$2,000.

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\* Col. Coit died Oct. 26, 1855, aged 62.

Deacon Colton removed from Hartford to Norwich in 1811, and was for fifty years in the cabinet-ware business in the place. He died near the close of the year 1862.

*Sale of Pews.*

The first sale was in 1796. From thence to the year 1800, they brought about \$500 per annum.

From 1800 to 1810, the amount ranged between \$455 and \$688. After this the increase was gradual, and in 1827 it rose to \$901. The pews were altered into slips in 1829, and the figures leaped at once over the *thousand*. In 1838 another thousand was reached, and since the erection of the present church in 1846, the average has been over \$3,000.

A third Congregational Church was formed within the limits of Chelsea district, Aug. 29, 1827, with ten members, and a small brick edifice erected for its accommodation, near the Park, on what is now Sachem street. It existed only twelve years, but during that time was a well-sustained, efficient church, and received 91 members by profession; 66 by letter.

It had four ministers:

Rev. Benson C. Baldwin, installed Jan. 31, 1828.

Rev. Charles Hyde, " Jan. 2, 1830.

Rev. Joel W. Newton, " Oct. 29, 1834.

Rev. Thos. K. Fessenden, ordained Oct. 16, 1839.

The church was disbanded May 23, 1842, and the members dismissed to other churches. The house of worship was sold to the Methodist society.

The Greenville Congregational Church was organized Jan. 1, 1833, with sixteen members, and a meeting-house built the next year. It has the following ministerial record:

Rev. John Storrs, installed pastor March 12, 1834; dismissed April 17, 1835.

Rev. Stephen Crosby, elected pastor by unanimous consent early in 1837, and officiated as such until his decease in June, 1838, but not installed.

A. L. Whitman, installed Dec., 1838; dismissed March, 1846.

Charles P. Bush, " " 1846; " Jan., 1856.

Robert P. Stanton, present pastor, installed June 11, 1856.

Mr. Stanton had been previously settled at Cohoes, N. Y., and at Derby, Ct. He is a native of Belchertown, Mass., but in his ancestry connected with Groton, Ct.

In a manufacturing district like this, a church and congregation are peculiarly liable to changes and fluctuations. The Greenville church,



however, has been sustained with great uniformity; the vacancies made by frequent removals being speedily filled by new-comers or by the fruits of revivals. When the whole village contained but 700 inhabitants, the Congregational church, which was then the only one in the place, had 100 members. It has had three deacons: Samuel Mowry, chosen at the first organization of the church, and for several years the only one in office; Oliver Woodworth, who died Feb. 7, 1865, aged 71; Frederick W. Cary, successor of Mr. Woodworth. Deacon Mowry and William H. Coit are the veterans of this church,—the first on its list of members, and still upholding its ministrations.

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A fifth Congregational Church, now ranking as the fourth in the order of time, and formed principally by a colony from the second, was organized June 1, 1842, with 112 members, 98 of whom were from the Second Church. It stood forth at once upon a solid foundation, and has ever since been a strong and prosperous church.

The meetings were held at first in the town-hall; but a house of worship, erected on Main street, was dedicated Oct. 1, 1845, and the association took the distinctive title of *Main Street Congregational Church*.

Rev. Willard Child was installed over the church Aug. 31, 1842, but resigned the office at the close of three years.

Rev. John P. Gulliver was ordained pastor, Oct. 1, 1846, and under his efficient ministry the church has largely increased in numbers and influence.

The meeting-house of this society, constructed of Chatham free-stone, at an expense of \$14,000, was destroyed by fire, Sept. 17, 1854, after it had been occupied about nine years. A more eligible site was then chosen, at the corner of Broadway and Bath street, and a new church built of far greater capacity and convenience than the former. The foundation stone was laid in July, 1855, and the edifice completed and dedicated in October, 1857. A change of title became necessary, and that of Broadway Congregational Church was adopted.

This church, the most costly and complete of any sacred edifice ever erected in Norwich, is 64 feet by 94, and the spire 200 feet high. It is built of brick, with free-stone dressings, in the Roman style of architecture, and in its admirable system of ventilation is regarded as a model church.

The organ, of great compass and purity of tone, was the gift of Wm. A. Buckingham. The Sabbath School room in the basement will seat 450 persons, and the adjoining lecture-room 120.

This society numbers about 200 families, and the church 300 members.

After a pastorate of nineteen years, Mr. Gulliver resigned his charge, in order to accept an urgent call from the New England Congregational Church in Chicago, and was dismissed Oct. 24, 1865. He leaves a church prosperous and progressive, attached to his ministry, and reluctantly consenting to the separation.

Mr. Gulliver is a native of Boston, and graduated at Yale College in 1840.

The year 1845 was noted for church building. Four out of the five Congregational churches in Norwich erected new buildings, or largely repaired the old ones. Christ Church was built by the Episcopal society two years later.

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The number of Christian ministers of various denominations that look back to Norwich First Society for their birth-place, or at least for the home of their youth, is so large as to be worthy of special enumeration. The twenty-four following names belong to this class :

William F. Arms.  
David R. Austin.  
Isaac Backus, Baptist.  
Simon Backus, of Newington.  
Henry Case.  
Frederick Charlton, Baptist.  
Charles Cleveland, of Boston.  
Richard F. Cleveland.  
Jabez Fitch, son of Rev. James.  
Daniel W. Havens.  
Henry Strong Huntington.  
John Huntington, of Salem.

Edward Hyde, Methodist.  
Charles Hyde.  
Simeon Hyde.  
James T. Hyde.  
Daniel W. Lathrop.  
Z. H. Mansfield, Episcopal.  
William Nevins, D. D.  
Charles Porter.  
Th. S. Shipman.  
George Strong, Episcopal.  
Erastus Wentworth, D. D., Methodist.  
David Wright, Baptist.



## CHAPTER XLVI.

### WAR, AND AFTER THE WAR.

WAR with Great Britain was declared by the United States June 19, 1812.

In May, 1813, the frigates *United States* and *Macedonian* and the sloop-of-war *Hornet*, in attempting to pass out of the Sound on a cruise, were driven back by an English squadron that was hovering near the outlet, and were forced to take refuge in New London harbor. Here they were blockaded by the British ships, and being still apprehensive of an attack from a force far superior to their own, they retired up the river, and on the 10th of June, passing the bar at Gale's ferry, came within three miles of Norwich. Here they were partially dismantled, and laid up till the conclusion of the war. The seamen were sent to the lakes, and were all so fortunate as to pass in boats, or other small craft, safely through the blockading fleet, and arrive at their destination.

The commerce of the Thames ceased at once. Sails were taken down, hulls packed together like logs, keels left to decay. The blockade of the river continued about two years, and was strictly enforced. It was a period of anxiety, depression, and gloom. The large force displayed by the enemy kept New London and other places on the Sound in constant apprehension of an assault. A British seventy-four, with an accompaniment of frigates or sloops of war and smaller craft, maintained a strict guard at the mouth of the river, and there being no creeks or side channels by which an entrance could be effected, it was not easy to elude their vigilance. The blockade was adequate and effective. Many valuable prizes were taken by the enemy, and in the course of a few months the coast was swept clean of all American craft.

Experiments were however occasionally made, of running through the fleet with a fair wind, or of slipping by in the night, which were often successful. In 1813, the schooner *O. H. Perry*, 267 tons, built by Samuel Story, and just completed when the news came of Perry's victory on Lake Erie, dropped down to New London, and one night in November, passing by the blockading squadron, in nine hours reached New York in safety. But on her first voyage to St. Domingo the next spring, she was captured by the frigate *Endymion*.

The privateer schooner *Marmion*, built by S. Clark, ran out in safety in March, 1814, and went to sea under Capt. Bingley. Another privateer, launched from Edgerton's ship-yard nearly at the same time, was equally fortunate in eluding the vigilance of the enemy. Escape and capture alternated in this game of running the blockade. Capt. John Doane, in a fishing vessel called *The Bee*, and Capt. Jonathan Lester in the sloop *Richard*, were captured during the winter of 1813-14. The sloop *Three Brothers*, Erastus Davison, in entering New London harbor, Dec. 22, was fired at four times by the British frigate *Statira*, but came safely up the river with a full cargo.

The 4th of July, 1814, brought with it but little festivity. A pleasant incident, however, occurred at Norwich. A house on the river, near Bushnell's Cove, about a mile below the city, was kept as a public house, and called the *Thames Hotel*.\* It was at this time rented by Capt. Christopher R. Perry, the father of Commodore Perry. On the day of jubilee, a party of gentlemen from the city had a public dinner at this hotel, and just before sitting down to the table, the heroic Commodore himself unexpectedly arrived from the lakes on a visit to his father. Great was the cheering, and never were cheers bestowed more cordially. The joyous acclamations reached the dismantled squadron below, where the few officers in charge were dining on the deck of the *Macedonian*, and the river was enlivened with a succession of responsive cheers and salutes.

In August, 1814, the enemy made a bold but unsuccessful attack upon Stonington. Had they succeeded in gaining possession of this foothold, there is little doubt that the stroke would have been followed by a sudden descent upon Norwich. There was no other place that they could hope to reach, which offered such temptations as this.

Three ships of war were lying helpless in the river; the harbor was crowded with dismantled merchant vessels, and the town contained a public arsenal for the manufacture of gun-carriages, and several valuable mills for the production of paper and cotton and woollen cloth. These were strong inducements for the enemy to make a raid into the country, and sweep over the city in vengeance and destruction. The situation of the town was therefore considered very critical, and the inhabitants were filled with anxiety and fear.

A petition was forwarded to the commander-in-chief of the State troops for a military force to be stationed in or near the place for its protection, and on the 15th of September the citizens assembled in town meeting for the special purpose of considering what should be done in the way of defence against the enemy.

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\* Built by Thomas Bushnell, and after the war the residence of Capt. Appleton Meach.



A Committee of Safety was appointed, with discretionary power, the members of which may be taken as representatives of the various interests of the town.

Theodore Barrell,  
John DeWitt,  
Gen. Zachariah Huntington,  
Charles P. Huntington,  
Ebenezer Hyde, Jun.  
Newcomb Kinney,  
James Lanman,  
Ezra Lathrop,

Capt. Augustus Lathrop,  
Capt. Jonathan Lester,  
Major Joseph Perkins,  
Capt. Charles Rockwell,  
Capt. Eleazar Rogers,  
Capt. Benjamin Snow,  
Col. Samuel Tyler.

Under the direction of this committee, several volunteer companies were organized, equipped, and held ready for sudden emergencies.

A regiment was about the same time drafted in Norwich and the neighboring towns, and sent to the coast to take the place of the Third Brigade, which had been on duty at New London and Stonington, and was now discharged.

Colonel Elisha Tracy of Norwich held the place of deputy-commissary and general agent of the government during the war.

George L. Perkins was brigade-inspector and paymaster of the Connecticut and Rhode Island troops, with the rank of major in the regular army.

J. Bates Murdock of Bozrah, and Joseph Kinney of Norwich, well-educated and promising young men, enlisted early in this war, and were soon promoted to the rank of captains.

Recruits from Norwich, and other towns in this part of Connecticut, were assigned to the 25th regiment, commanded by Major Jessup. This regiment was on the Niagara frontier in the campaign of 1814, and in the hottest part of the fight during the severe engagements at Chippeway and Bridgewater. This last battle,—known also as the battle of the Cataract, and of Lundy's Lane,—was then considered the most desperate battle ever fought in North America: the loss on either side amounting to nearly one-fourth of those engaged.\*

Capt. Kinney fell in this battle,—shot through the breast just at the close of the engagement, and died upon the battle-field. He was a gallant officer, with a fine person and soldier-like bearing, popular with the army, and a favorite in society. His sad fate excited a deep sympathy in the community at home.

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\* One of the survivors of the campaign of 1814, (Asa Manning, drummer, now janitor of the Free Academy,) says: "There were some 45 of us Norwich boys, who fought at Lundy's Lane, some of whom laid down their lives on that bloody field, and all fought with courageous gallantry. We brought off our flag, though it was shot from the staff and riddled with 30 or 40 bullet holes." Mr. Manning's father, Diah Manning, was in the war of the Revolution, and one of Washington's body-guard.

The following inscription is on the family monument at Norwich:

Joseph, son of Newcomb and Sally Kinney, entered the U. S. Army as Lieutenant at the commencement of the war with Great Britain in 1812, was engaged in several severe skirmishes, besides six sanguinary battles, the last of which was at Lundy's Lane, Bridgewater, July 25th, 1814, where he was killed commanding the 2d division of the 25th regiment of U. S. Infantry, in the 27th year of his age.

Buried in Buffalo, N. Y.

Very few reminiscences can be gathered of this war. It was unpopular in New England, and its deeds of heroism were not laid up as treasures of the memory by sympathetic admirers.

Notwithstanding the inventive genius of our people, and the facility with which they contrive substitutes when deprived of customary comforts and conveniences, the privations consequent upon the war were numerous and perplexing. We had too literally followed the advice of some of our statesmen, to keep our work-shops in Europe. Articles of steel and iron, for instance, were all of English production. Even pins had not then been made to any extent, if at all, in this country, and during the war were upwards of a dollar per paper. Out of many hundred articles which constituted the retail assortment of the largest hardware and furnishing store at that time in Norwich, only four were manufactured in this country, viz., steelyards, cut nails, bed-cords, and screw-augers. These last were an American invention.

The war gave to the manufacturing interest of Norwich a decided impetus. The following mills in and around the town originated in the exigencies of the time, and went into operation between 1813 and 1816.

Cotton-mill of Goddard & Williams, at the Falls: John Gray, agent.

Fanning cotton-factory at Jewett City; Christopher Lippitt, agent.

Bozrahville cotton-factory; Erastus Hyde, agent.

Cotton-factory at Lisbon; LaFayette Tibbitts, agent.

Nail-factory at the Falls; Wm. C. Gilman, agent.

Scholfield's woollen-factory at Jewett City.

Woollen-factory of Cleveland & Allen, near Lord's Bridge.

As illustrative of the sudden changes that the tide of war often makes in domestic history, the following incidents merit notice:

The flag-ship of the blockading squadron at New London was the *Ramillies*, on board of which was an impressed American seaman named John Carpenter, a native of Norwich. His father, an aged and respectable man, ascertained this fact, and, provided with suitable vouchers, went off to the squadron with a flag of truce, and applied for his release. Commodore Hardy, after patiently examining the case, freely gave the seaman his discharge, with certificates to show that he had served faithfully for more than five years, and was entitled to \$300 wages and \$2000



prize money. The father met his son, whom he had not seen for more than eight years, on the deck of the *Ramillies*, and they came home together.

Capt. Asa Hosmer of Norwich had been five years separated from his family, engaged in trade upon the coast of South America. He was returning home in 1812, a passenger in a merchant vessel, and was within fourteen miles of the coast, when an English man-of-war came in sight, and the vessel was taken as a prize.

Capt. Hosmer suffered a long detention with the blockading fleet, hovering day after day and month after month in sight of his native coast, before he was released.

The same enterprising mariner and trader was subsequently immured during three years and nine months in a Spanish dungeon at Havana. He returned home from this exile July 25, 1820, and immediately resumed his maritime pursuits, but died on the coast of Honduras in 1824.

The news of peace came so suddenly, that it threw the whole country into transports of joy; all was enthusiasm and ecstasy, and the rejoicings exceeded any thing ever before witnessed in America. The grateful tidings reached Norwich, Feb. 13, 1815, and the citizens gave vent to their boundless joy in mutual congratulations, shouts, cannonades, and illuminations; rockets flew up from the hills, salutes were fired from the ships in the river, and these were echoed from the fortresses at New London, and those again were responded to from the British blockading squadron at the mouth of the river, till the whole adjacent country was made glad with the tidings.

The winter had been distinguished as a season of severe frost; loaded sleds traveled on the bosom of the Thames in perfect safety; and for several weeks persons might skate all the way from Norwich to New London upon the river. But as soon as peace was proclaimed, preparations were made to revive business.

Admiral Hotham's blockading squadron, which had long been keeping watch at the mouth of the river, put to sea March 11th.

The dismantled ships in the river made haste to resume their gear; the *Macedonian*, the last to leave her moorings, went down to New London April 4th.

The brig *Dove*, Walter Lester, was the first merchant vessel to start on a voyage. She cleared the last of April for St. Vincent, with horses and cattle. The *Dove* was also the first to arrive from a foreign port. She brought in a valuable cargo in August; duties, \$9,832.

Brig *Fame*, J. S. Billings, sailed in June for Guadaloupe. Brig *Hope*, George Gilbert, cleared in December. Very few, however, of the mer-

chants and ship-masters resumed their former correspondence with the Islands.\* A voyage was now and then made with fair success, but before 1820 the regular West India trade of Norwich seems to have tapered into extinction. Capt. Walter Lester was one of the last engaged in it.

Norwich had been so thoroughly depressed in its mercantile interests by the war, that the restoration to prosperity could not be otherwise than gradual and slow. The general stagnation of business arrested the growth of the city, and kept it for nearly the first quarter of the century without advance or improvement. For twenty years or more, no buildings of any importance, except the dwelling-houses heretofore mentioned in Washington street, were erected in Chelsea. The hotel of Reuben Willoughby, since much altered and enlarged, and now known as the American House, was built in 1803-4. From 1800 to 1820, the population of Norwich increased only 148. Thomas Robinson built on Main street in 1825; Russell Hubbard on Broadway the next year. Mansfield's brick row, erected in 1831, was a decided indication of reviving enterprise.

In 1806-7, the clearances for foreign ports from the whole New London district exceeded 100 each year. In 1819, only 24 are recorded; in 1820, only 16. These facts are striking evidences of the decline of foreign trade in this district.

But the era of steam navigation had now commenced. On the 15th of October, 1816, Capt. Bunker in the steamboat Connecticut ascended the Thames. The Norwich Courier, in its issue of that day, circulated the interesting intelligence through the town.

2 o'clock P. M.—“We stop the press to announce the arrival at this port of the new Steam Boat Connecticut, Capt. Bunker,” &c.

This was the first steam trip to Norwich, and people from the neighborhood rushed to the place to behold the prodigy that science had produced,—a ship wafted safely over the waters by fire.

A small steamer called the Eagle, 85 tons burden, and raising 38 lbs. to the inch, was soon afterward constructed at Norwich by Gilbert Brewster, an ingenious mechanic then living in Norwich. It was furnished with a small engine, and what was called a wooden boiler, but consisting mainly of an iron cylinder cased in wood. It went down the river on its first or trial trip, July 1, 1817, and met on the way the steamboat Fulton, Capt. Law, with streamers flying and music playing, in honor of James Munroe, President of the United States, who was on board. The Presi-

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\* Several of the veteran sea-captains found ready employment in other ports. In 1820, Capt. Colver made a voyage to Archangel in the barque Sarah Louisa; Capt. Whiting went to Trieste in the ship Garonne, and Capt. Tracy to London in the London Packet,—all from New York. These ship-masters and several others, though sailing for many years from other ports, had their homes in Norwich.



dent was on a tour through the Northern States, and having arrived that day at New London, Capt. Law was making an excursion on the Thames to give him an opportunity of viewing the river; and the trip of the *Eagle* had been undertaken as a pleasure excursion, to meet and salute the President of the United States, while at the same time testing the character of the new boat. Capt. John Doane, a well-known packet-master, commanded, and fifty persons purchased tickets for the occasion.

The passengers, fifty in number, were in the cabin, in the rear of the boiler, when it was announced that the *Fulton* was approaching; upon which they hastened to gain the deck, and just as the last of the company was ascending the stairs of the gangway, a terrific explosion took place. The end of the boiler was forced out, and sweeping through the cabin, went out at the stern, leaving scarcely a wreck of the partitions, furniture, and contents of the cabin behind. Even timbers and heavy planks were wrenched from their places, and scattered in fragments.

Had the passengers remained but a minute longer in the cabin, all must have perished. Fifty citizens of Norwich came within a minute of being swept together into eternity.

Some of them were wounded by flying fragments of wood, or bruised by being thrown down by the shock, but one of the crew, who was last upon the stairs, was the only person scalded, and he but slightly.

Notwithstanding this first calamity, the *Eagle*, as an early specimen of steamboat construction, reflected credit upon its ingenious builder. Afterwards fitted with a safe boiler, and its name changed to the *Hancock*, it made a serviceable freight-boat, and was employed for some years on another part of the coast.

The regular line of steam communication with New York commenced in 1817; the *Connecticut* and the *Fulton* forming the line, and stopping both at New Haven and New London. The packet system from that time lost its patronage and importance. The old days of uncertainty, in which, when a person started for New York, he ran the risk of being a week on the voyage, gave place to three trips per week comparatively certain. One of the last of the better class of packets, fitted to accommodate passengers as well as to carry freight, was the *Ann Maria*, Capt. W. W. Coit. In 1820, Capt. Coit went into the Sound steamboat line, running at first the *General Jackson*. Three other steamers on this route, viz., the *Norwich*, *Huntress*, and *Worcester*, were built for him,\* and each

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\* The early steam navigation of the river was much indebted to the enterprise of Capt. Coit. He has since been interested in the building of several large steamers, to run on different routes. One of these, named the *W. W. Coit*, built for him at Mystic in 1864, and immediately chartered by Government, was the vessel from which Gen. Gilmore landed and took possession of Charleston, Feb. 18, 1865,—her ensign being the first Union flag hoisted on Sumter after the surrender.

in succession was for several years under his command. He retired from the line in 1831.

Other commanders from Norwich, who were early connected with the steamboat line to New York and New Haven, were Charles Davison of the *Fanny*, and Euclid Elliot of the *Maria*.

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*Notes from the Town Record.\**

Oct. 14, 1800. In Town Meeting—Voted that the Select Men be requested to write to the Representatives of this town at the General Assembly now sitting at New Haven to use their influence in obtaining a resolve or an Act of Assembly prohibiting the migration of negroes and people of color from other states into this state.

In August, 1818, a convention of deputies from all parts of the State met at Hartford and agreed upon a Constitution for the State.

Previous to this the laws and government of the State had been based upon the Charter of Charles II., granted in 1662. The new Constitution was submitted to each town separately, and being accepted by the majority, was ratified.

It was laid before the town of Norwich in October. The votes in favor of it were 194; against it, 74.

October, 1826. Resolved, to encourage a project of opening a canal from the tide water at Norwich to Worcester Co., Mass., along the Quinabaug river.

1835. Voted, that the old book of records of births and marriages be transcribed by the clerk, Alexander Lathrop.

June 2, 1837. Resolved, That as it is the duty of every good citizen to discountenance seditious and incendiary doctrines of every sort, we do deny *entirely* the use of the Town Hall or of any other building belonging to the town for any purpose connected in any way with the abolition of slavery.

1837. Voted to use the interest of the deposit fund of surplus revenue for schools and other purposes of education.

Jan. 2, 1841. Resolved that no license be granted for selling wine or other spirituous liquors, except for medicinal purposes, during the year.

This was moved by Charles W. Rockwell, Esq., and was reiterated by him and confirmed by the town at the beginning of several succeeding years.

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\* Nathaniel Shipman, Esq., presided as moderator at a large number of public assemblies. Between 1798 and 1820, he was oftener than any other person called to the chair.



1842. Voted that measures be taken to have Norwich made a whole shire town, in order that all the Courts of New London County be held here.

May, 1847. Voted to oppose with the utmost vigor, the petition of New London to bridge the Thames, as such a measure would be very injurious to the interests of this town.

The sum of \$5000 was appropriated to carry out this vote.

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The Norwich Channel Company was incorporated in 1805 "for improving the Channel of the river Thames," and a lottery granted to raise a fund of \$10,000 for this object. Three classes were drawn in 1805-6. The managers were Simeon Breed, Joseph Perkins, Dwight Ripley, Peter Lanman, and Jabez Huntington.

When the company should have succeeded so far that vessels drawing eight and a half feet of water could advance to the head of the river, they were authorized to demand a certain rate of toll. Very little improvement was effected by this company, although at one time they reported nine feet of water, at common tide, the whole distance from Norwich to New London. In 1825 the stock was merged in the Thames Bank.

The dredging machine used by the Channel Company was the patent of Stephen Culver, and a suit was brought against the Company for infringing his rights, but the patent could not be sustained. It was proved to be a machine formed on the same principle with one that had been used in France, and especially in the harbor of L'Orient, forty years before.

The patentee was then dead. He had been a packet-master, bridge-builder, and machine-maker, and no doubt honestly considered himself the originator of the patented machine. But from early youth he had followed the seas, and it was shown that in his boyhood he had been carried a prisoner to France, and left for a while at this very harbor of L'Orient, and probably retained some vague idea in his mind of the principle of the machine, which in after life he worked out and put into operation.

## CHAPTER XLVII.

### MISCELLANIES.

#### *Controversies.*

TOWNS, like nations, have their inward sectional conflicts and their outward hostilities, by which society is often moved to its depths and rendered turbulent and dark, though the difficulty may never result in acts of open violence. It is by no means a pleasant task to chronicle outworn disputes, and it might be well to leave all such themes in the oblivion of decaying records, if by suppressing the truth we did not lead to a false estimate of the peace and happiness of past days, compared with the present. We are prone to think that social life in the time of our fathers was not beset by those contending claims and passionate prejudices that now so often disturb the repose of small communities. The unjust inference is therefore drawn, that the old was better than the new, and that in the virtues of justice, moderation and good neighborhood we have declined from the high standard of our ancestors. But the glass of history often presents us with a view of the past which seems but a reflection of the present, with even an aggravation of the darker tints. Local feuds, interminable lawsuits, abusive language, threatening denunciations, aggressions sectional and municipal, were quite as frequent and apparently more causeless and infuriated in former times than at the present day.

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#### *Location of the Courts.*

A sectional jealousy between the Town-plot or First Society and Chelsea began to make its appearance soon after the Revolutionary war. As the two societies drew towards a balance in numbers and influence, the points of collision multiplied, and the jar was nearly continuous. Almost every election was marked by high excitement, if not with absolute strife and contention.

In 1798, after a long and sharp contest, a vote was obtained that the town meetings should thereafter be held alternately in the First and Second Societies. The first town-meeting in Chelsea was held in 1800, in the Congregational meeting-house, and this marks the period when the



two societies were most equally balanced. Yet the predominating influence still remained with the Town-plot. In the year 1800, the Mayor, Elisha Hyde, the four Aldermen, Thomas Fanning, John Turner, Samuel Huntington, and Simeon Thomas, the town-clerk, Benjamin Huntington the city clerk, Charles Lathrop, and half of the common council, were of the First Society.

The contest for the possession of the court-house and the court sessions was still more acrimonious. The Ancient Town could not resign these privileges without a last struggle to retain them.

Early in the year 1809, a vote was carried to cede the court-house to the county for the use of the county courts, provided it should be removed to Chelsea Plain at individual expense. The defeated party claimed that this result had been gained by surprise and from partizan motives. Fresh meetings were summoned; the vote was reconsidered, rescinded, and finally passed a second time. The county accepted the cession, but before the deed of conveyance had been legally confirmed, the storm of opposition grew so intense that it was not executed. Dec. 18th, a second vote of cession was carried, and a new committee appointed to assign the property. But on the 30th of the same month, another town meeting revoked all former proceedings whatever, relating to the removal of the courts and the conveyance of the house to the county.

The contention was renewed at times, with alternate periods of brooding quiet, for a series of years. It came up again in 1826, with increased heat and determination, and at this time a strong desire was manifested in the old part of the town for a division into two communities. A petition to that effect was sent to the Legislature, praying that Norwich might be restricted to the First Society and relieved from its association with Chelsea, but it produced no result.

Jan. 22, 1827, a meeting was held in the Congregational church at Chelsea, at which the two propositions for dividing the town and fixing upon the site for a new town and court-house, were discussed with fiery vehemence. The vote for a separation was lost by a small majority; after which a conciliatory motion was made and passed, that the new court-house should be seated on or near the Central Plain. This vote was, however, so displeasing to a large party, that a clamorous call for an immediate adjournment was made and carried.

The next day the freeholders re-assembled at nine o'clock in the morning. It was good sleighing, and every horse and runner from the farms and villages were put in requisition; the streets were lined with vehicles, and the church was thronged to its utmost capacity.\* The vote respecting

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\* Before the year 1830, at which time the town-house was completed, the town meetings at the Landing were held in the Second Congregational Church.

the site of the town and court-house was reconsidered and annulled, and a new resolution carried, that the said house should be erected within the bounds of Chelsea. The vote stood 227 to 219,—by far the largest number of voters that had been present at one meeting since the division into four towns in 1786.

At the electors' meeting in April following, the sectional spirit rose, if possible, to a still higher point. The Chelsea candidates were finally chosen: the first by a majority of only one vote, between 11 and 12 o'clock at night, after thirteen ballotings!

These proceedings show that Chelsea society had now gained the ascendancy over the older part of the town. The latter again petitioned the Legislature for a separate municipal organization, but without success.

The question with respect to the location of the courts was three times brought before the General Assembly, and fully discussed, and twice tried in the Superior Courts, the decision being each time in favor of their remaining where they were. But in the session of 1833, the Assembly voted to refer the whole subject to the representatives of the county of New London. These met in the town-hall at Chelsea, Sept. 19th, and carried the question of removal, fifteen to eight. All opposition on the other side ceased from this time, and the transfer was made in peace. The struggle had continued about twenty-seven years.

The northern section of the town petitioned the Legislature to be separated from "the city," which was granted. The city limits since that period comprise Chelsea, Greeneville, and the Falls, with a section upon the river, extending to Trading Cove Brook.

The town-house was erected in 1829, at an expense of \$9,000. The upper story was fitted for a court-room, with offices attached, and in 1833 was ceded to the county for the use of the courts. The first court in this new building was in March, 1834, since which time the court sessions have been held exclusively at the Landing. The town-meetings continued to be held alternately at the Town and Landing till 1839, when a vote was carried with but little opposition, to restrict them henceforth to the city limits.

The town and court-house was destroyed by fire April 11, 1865. The books and records were saved.

In the early period of the town's history, the Jail stood upon the east side of the Green, in the town-plot. In the time of the Revolutionary war it was on the west side, under the brow of the hill, in the rear of the present brick school-house. Two buildings were worn out in this place, each having served about thirty years. The prison was then transferred to the south-east border of the Green, near the present post-office, where it continued till the courts were removed to Chelsea. The old building, vacant and worthless, was soon afterward burnt to the ground.



A new prison, with an adjoining house for the keeper, was erected at Chelsea, upon the high ground overlooking the city. These were ceded to the county, but consumed by fire, after a few years occupation, June 9, 1838.

The fire originated in the cell of a prisoner confined for theft, and was kindled by him with a candle which he obtained from his wife. His design was merely to burn out the lock of his cell door, that he might effect his escape; but before he could complete his work, the fire got beyond his control. The light was discovered, the alarm given, and all the inmates rescued; but from the difficulty of obtaining water, nothing could be done to arrest the destructive element.

The buildings were reconstructed on an enlarged plan, and though the taste which seated such an establishment in the most conspicuous part of the city may be questioned, yet the buildings themselves are pleasing objects in the perspective.

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#### *Gas Companies.*

The introduction of gas as a medium for lighting the city was for several years embarrassed with conflicts of opinion, lawsuits, and vehement explosions of partizanship. The first company that was formed for this purpose erected their works and obtained from the common council certain exclusive privileges for fifteen years. This company was incorporated by the Legislature in 1853, under the title of the Norwich Gas Light Company; Frederick W. Treadway, Superintendent.

Shortly afterward, great complaints were made; the light was said to be poor, the gas of bad odor, leakages were frequent, shade-trees in some places were destroyed, the company was accused of having violated their charter, and on the whole there was a growing disgust of monopolies. A large number of prominent citizens organized a new gas company under the joint-stock-corporation law, called the Norwich City Gas Company, and a trial for mastery between the two parties commenced. The *Gas Light* obtained from the Superior Court an injunction against the *City Gas*, which was set aside by a subsequent decision, and suits, attachments, collisions and tumultuary street assemblages followed in quick succession.

In April, 1855, a city meeting was held in relation to these gas difficulties, which, after some discussion, passed a vote to adjourn without action, 176 to 131. This was regarded as a test vote in favor of the Joint Stock Company, which thereupon went to work with vigor, and on the 10th of May, two conspicuous buildings, the Wauregan Hotel and the Chelsea Paper Mill, at Greeneville, were lighted from the Joint Stock reservoir. This company gradually obtained the patronage of the city. The public excitement subsided. An arrangement satisfactory to both

parties was made, the old gas-works were purchased by the City Gas party, and the two companies consolidated in November, 1858.

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### *Town's Poor.*

For several generations after the settlement of New England, society in point of wealth was without extremes. There were no overgrown fortunes, neither was there any positive beggary. A transient vagabond and a foreign pauper made their appearance here and there, but poverty was not a grievance of the country, calling for a mendicant system.

If any of the town's people through age or misfortune became destitute, the selectmen provided for them. For a century after the settlement of Norwich, only two or three in a year required assistance, and generally a few shillings covered the whole expense.

At a later period, the poor were provided for by contract; that is, placed under the care of those who would keep them the cheapest. This practice, which is the same as putting them up at auction and selling them to the lowest bidder, is too revolting to be long endured by a benevolent and prosperous community.

In 1767, a vote was passed to hire a convenient house for the poor, and to place them in it immediately. How soon this was accomplished is uncertain. It is not until after 1790 that we find the Town Alms-house situated upon Long or Ox Hill, and occupying a portion of the Hazen farm. This location was both inconvenient and expensive, and was ultimately exchanged for a lot at Chelsea, adjoining the site of the Episcopal Church, where a building was erected to which the town's poor were removed in the autumn of 1800.

In 1795, the Legislature empowered the town to establish a work-house for idle persons and vagrants, to be used as a house of correction, instead of the jail, to which such culprits had hitherto been consigned. This was not done at that time, but after the alms-house at Chelsea was completed, a work-house was erected by the side of it, and went into operation in 1806.

The first poor-house had been established on a lonely and bleak hill, and the second was even less eligibly situated. It was directly upon the street, allowing its forlorn residents to be the gazing-stock of the public. After a few years a favorable change was made. A third alms-house was erected, in a retired yet easily accessible position, upon the west side of the cove, and furnished with all the accessories of comfort and convenience that considerate benevolence could wish. This was opened for the reception of the poor in 1819. The salary of the keeper was \$150, and the physician's fees were not to exceed that amount. For a series of years, even till the flood of emigration and the war of the rebellion altered



the circumstances of the country, the number of inmates seldom exceeded thirty.

A new building of brick, the fourth regular alms-house of the town, with larger and better accommodations, was erected in 1859, on the same lot as the preceding. The number of inmates in 1863 was 56,—two of them over 90 years of age.

According to the census of 1860, the number of persons, not in the alms-house, assisted by the town for the year ending June 1, 1860, was 53 native-born Americans; 210 of foreign birth. Since that period the number is more than trebled.

For the year ending Sept. 1, 1865: expenses of the alms-house, \$6,-217.74; of the poor out of the alms-house, \$15,044.

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### *Laurel Hill.*

Going back to the year 1712, when the spot now covered by Norwich city was a wild, ungraded sheep-walk, we find the east side of the river bordered by high, precipitous banks, overshadowed with straggling trees, and dense with shrubs and vines, described in deeds as “the rockie land on ye east side of ye great river at the mouth of Showtucket.”

Along the river, running down toward Brewster's Neck, were two farms; the upper belonging to John Downs, and the lower to Joseph Elderkin. These farms, after several times changing owners, were purchased at different periods, the upper by Jabez Perkins, and the lower by Nathaniel Backus. Capt. Perkins bought also the Fitch farm and other lands in the neighborhood. His wife was the daughter of Mr. Backus, and on the decease of the latter in 1787, the Elderkin farm fell to her by inheritance, which brought the eastern bank of the river for a considerable distance into the ownership of Capt. Perkins and his wife. The only child of this couple that lived to maturity was Mary, the wife of Capt. Edward Whiting, and the two children of this daughter dying without issue, the estate, agreeably to the will of Capt. Perkins, reverted in fee simple to their father, Capt. Whiting.

The Indian name of this tract was Shipscattuck. In 1860 the road to Poquetannock was called *the Shipscattuck path*. The original grantees in this quarter were Robert Roath, Owen Williams, Josiah Rockwell, Benjamin Fitch, John Elderkin: these were Shipscattuck proprietors. At a later period the dwellings of Thomas Danforth and Michael Pepper were said to be at Shipscattuck.

These grants were all in East or Long Society, which in 1786 was dis-severed from Norwich by legislative authority and annexed to Preston.

Perkins and Whiting were the proprietors on this bank of the river for

more than sixty years. A large proportion of the land was rugged and unproductive; it was therefore but partially cleared and cultivated. After coming into the possession of Capt. Whiting, the only dwelling was a small farm-house pleasantly situated on the river, but with no road leading to it except a pent-way through the woods. The farm-house has since expanded into the costly and eccentric villa of Sunnyside.

In 1845, the Norwich and Worcester Railroad Company laid their iron track along the border of the river, purchasing the privilege for a very moderate sum.

With these exceptions this highland district lay almost in its natural state until 1850. But taste and enterprise were now ready to take possession of the hill. The northern portion of the tract, lying nearest the city, which consisted chiefly of rock-bound heights and tangled thickets, was purchased, Oct. 8, 1850, by three partners, John A. Rockwell, Thos. Robinson, and Henry Bill, with the express purpose of bringing it into notice as an eligible position for a suburban village. Under their direction the land was surveyed, a street opened, and house-lots laid out, and the whole thrown open to purchasers. The name of Laurel Hill was bestowed upon it on account of the preponderance of that beautiful evergreen in its woods and on its sunny slopes. Other wild flowers were also abundant. The trailing arbutus, the scarlet columbine, the wild pink, and the purple gentian, were among its noted floral treasures.

In 1853, two of the partners in the Laurel Hill purchase resigned their interest to the third, and since that period Mr. Bill has been successfully engaged in its improvement. He contributed largely to the construction of the free bridge over the Shetucket, established his own residence upon the hill, and has the satisfaction of seeing other pleasant homes and gardens gradually extending along the river-side, and changing the ancient "Rockie Hill at the mouth of Showtucket" into an elegant rural village. Laurel Hill now contains over thirty dwelling-houses; has forty voters, and seventy-six pupils in the schools,—all the growth of ten or twelve years.

In 1857, upon the petition of John W. Stedman, S. T. Holbrook, and others of the inhabitants of Laurel Hill, this district was annexed by a State Act to the city of Norwich. This was only a return to its ancient allegiance, of a part of Long Society. The dividing line with Preston passes over the highest westerly summit of Tory Hill, in the range of Lanman's Chair.



*Otis Library, incorporated in 1851.*

This institution was founded by Joseph Otis, a retired merchant, who expended for the site, the erection of the building, its furniture, and the first purchase of books, about \$10,500, and in his will left \$6,500 to be funded for the future use of the library.

The building was completed in 1850. The lower story contains the library, and the upper is appropriated to a pastor's study, toward the furnishing of which Mr. Otis gave \$1,000. The library opened with 250 volumes and over 1,000 subscribers.

Hamlin B. Buckingham has been the librarian from the commencement to the present time. The most important new works are purchased, and the best periodicals taken and preserved. In February, 1865, the number of books reported was 6,666. Tickets for the year are one dollar each.

The original board of trustees, nominated by the founder, were :

George Perkins,	William A. Buckingham,
Rev. Alvan Bond, D. D.,	Robert Johnson,
Worthington Hooker, M. D.,	Charles Johnson.
J. G. W. Trumbull,	

The spare walls of the library are covered with about thirty portraits of citizens who were contemporary with Mr. Otis. These were painted by Alexander H. Emmons for Charles Johnson, Esq., President of the Norwich Bank, who, in ordering the work, had two motives in view, one to preserve the likeness of men honored and respected in the community, and the other to furnish subjects for an artist whom he wished to encourage. Mr. Emmons is a self-taught portrait-painter, who has exercised his profession for more than forty years in Norwich, and has found constant employment.

Joseph Otis was a native of Norwich, born in July, 1768, at Yantic, near what was then the Backus iron-works, now the site of the Williams woolen-mill. His parents were from Montville: the name of his mother, Lucy Haughton. He had the common advantages of school education, but at a very early age went into mercantile service at the Landing, and as soon as he reached maturity, entered into trade on his own account. He was successively in business at Charleston, New York, Norwich, Richmond, and again at New York, where by far the greater part of his mercantile career was spent in the commission business. His religious connection was with the Duane St. Presbyterian Church, where he officiated for nearly twenty years as an elder. To all works of charity and Christian benevolence he was a generous contributor,—the constant flow of his free-will offerings showing the largeness of his heart.

In 1838, his health being infirm, he withdrew from business and removed to Norwich, which was thenceforward his home. His wife, who was a daughter of Levi Huntington, died in 1844, aged 72 years. They had been married 47 years. Mr. Otis died in April, 1854, in the 86th year of his age. He had no children.

By his will he left about \$30,000, which was a large proportion of his estate, to twelve different religious and educational institutions, in sums varying from \$1,000 to \$7,000.

Rev. T. H. Skinner of New York, in a letter written after the death of Mr. Otis, says of him :

“It was always refreshing to look on the face of Mr. Otis. It had a benign, friendly, affectionate aspect, even when his heart was sorrowful and when his sorrow expressed itself in tears. And his natural and gracious amiability was not a weakness, nor was weakness its associate. He was a man of sharp discrimination between true and false, good and evil, whether in things or persons.”

It was characteristic of Mr. Otis to support with regularity and constancy every enterprise to which he had contributed, if it continued to be worthy of patronage. No better illustration of this trait can be given than the fact that he was one of the original subscribers to the New York Commercial Advertiser, and continued to take it till his death, a period of fifty-seven years.

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#### *Centenarians.*

In Dwight's Travels an instance of longevity is recorded, of which we find no other account :

“Ann Heifer, a widow at Norwich, Conn., died March 22d, 1758, in her 105th year.”

Abigail, the second wife of Samuel Lathrop, is an instance better known. On the completion of her century, Jan. 23, 1732, the Rev. Benjamin Lord preached a sermon in her room at the house of her son. Her death is thus noticed in the Weekly Journal, printed at Boston :\*

“Mrs. Abigail Lothrop died at Norwich Jan. 23, 1735, in her 104th year. Her father John Done and his wife came to Plymouth in 1630, and there she was born the next year. She lived single till 60 years old and then married Mr. John Lothrop [mistake for Samuel Lothrop] of Norwich, who lived ten years and then died. Mr. Lothrop's descendants at her decease were 365.”

An example of longevity that demands a more extended notice is that of Capt. Erastus Perkins. He was a descendant of Jabez Perkins, one

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\* See representation of her grave-stone at p. 218.



of the brothers that settled early at Newent. His father, the third Jabez in succession, married Anne, daughter of Ebenezer Lathrop, and settled in the town-plot, occupying a house in the street that runs along the side of Sentry Hill. About the year 1754, Mr. Perkins brought home one day from the woods two young elms, of a size that he could conveniently bear upon his shoulder, and set them out in such positions that when grown they would throw their shade over a shop in which he worked. These are now the *Coit elms*, those broad-winged, stately twins that so majestically overshadow the residence of Daniel W. Coit, Esq.

Erastus Perkins, the oldest son of Jabez and Anne, was born Feb. 17, 1752. He is the only person we can name with certainty, that was born and passed his life in Norwich, who has attained to the age of a century. Doubtless other instances have occurred, but the names, dates and proofs have not been thoroughly tested and recorded, as in the case of Captain Perkins.

He died Oct. 18, 1853, aged 101 years and 10 months. He had been three times married, and by his first wife (Anne Glover) had ten children, only two of whom survived him. In his will he leaves a legacy to Erastus Perkins Pooler, "the great-grandson of my son Jabez, deceased."

Capt. Perkins had led a frugal, industrious life; active, but not eager and bustling. He was a man of great equanimity of temper, seldom in the whole course of his life ruffled to anger. Each of his three wives had been heard to say that she never saw her husband out of temper. He was all his life accustomed to regular hours; retiring to rest at the sound of the nine o'clock curfew bell, and rising soon after daylight.

All his schooling was obtained at the Brick School-house on the Town Green, where he began with his spelling-book at five years of age. From the days of childhood to those of maturity he was in the family of Gen. Jabez Huntington, and was employed variously in domestic and mercantile concerns. Here the customary breakfast consisted of bean-porridge, hasty-pudding, johnny-cake, brown bread and milk; baked apples and milk, and similar dishes; the dinner was of meat and vegetables cooked in the simplest manner, but bountiful in supply. The Sunday dinner was an enormous Indian pudding dressed with molasses. The Saturday night supper was the customary baked pork and beans, and the brown loaf of the true mahogany color.

His reminiscences reached back to the days of stamp-act excitement, from thence meandering down through the Revolution and the war of 1812. After the Revolution he was for many years a packet-master, running a sloop with freight and passengers between Norwich and New York; and hence came his title of captain. For twenty-three years he was Inspector of Customs, acting under the Collector of the New London district.

On the day that he rounded his century, he received 165 visitors, conversed with them all in a quiet and affable manner; recollected persons, faces, events, very readily; related anecdotes, when any thing suggested them; and had the appearance in mind and body of a man of 80 or 85.

In his history and customary habits there were no marked peculiarities. He was neither abstemious nor luxurious in diet. He never drank tea nor coffee till he was about 18 years of age, but after that period habitually made use of both in moderate quantities. His exercise was just what his business and domestic affairs made necessary, expending no surplusage in gymnastic feats or hilarious sports, though in his younger days joining heartily in the social enjoyments and merry-makings of his friends and neighbors. An equable temper and regular habits seem to have been the tracks over which the wheels of his life glided smoothly into longevity.

Thus much it seemed desirable to state respecting that truly historical character, the prominent centenarian of the town.

A sister of Mr. Perkins, Lydia, wife of Shubael Breed, died in April, 1861, in the 94th year of her age.

"Sept. 23, 1800. Died at the Poor House, Jack, one of God's images in ebony, at the advanced age of 104 years." *Norwich Courier*.

Simon T. Rudd is probably the oldest person now living in Norwich. He was born at Windham, Sept. 1, 1768. His mother was Mary Tracy, daughter of Dea. Simon Tracy of Norwich, whose name he bears.

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### *Newspapers.*

I. "The Norwich Packet," the first newspaper of the town, has already been largely noticed in this work. It was commenced in October, 1773, by Robertsons & Trumbull. The Robertsons withdrew in 1776, leaving the paper in the hands of the junior editor and printer, John Trumbull, in whose sole management it continued for twenty-six years. In February, 1802, the title was changed, and No. 1455 came out as *The Connecticut Centinel*,—"a name," said the editor, "more appropriate to the times; the Centinel being designed to do the duty of a good soldier, in giving notice of approaching dangers." The motto indicated the political party to which it gave support:

"Patrons and friends; ye men of sterling worth,  
'Tis you who call our grateful feelings forth:  
Firmly in Federal paths we still will tread,  
Nor heed the wasps that buzz around our head."

Mr. Trumbull died Aug. 14, 1802. The paper was then issued for a year in the name of his widow, Mrs. Lucy Trumbull, and subsequently



by his sons, Charles E. and Henry Trumbull. After a few years it was discontinued.

II. "The Weekly Register" was first issued Nov. 29, 1790, by Ebenezer Bushnell. Thomas Hubbard, the brother-in-law of Mr. Bushnell, appeared as joint publisher, June 7, 1791. In October, 1793, Bushnell retired from the paper, which was thenceforth conducted by Hubbard alone. The printing-office was "24 rods west of the meeting-house," and nearly opposite the press of Trumbull.

Mr. Bushnell was a man of quick wit and varied information; fluent with his pen, and ready even at poetical composition.\* He was a native of Windham, graduated at Yale in 1777, and settled at Norwich as an attorney. After leaving the Register, he entered into the paper-making business in connection with Andrew Huntington, but a few years later enlisted in the U. S. Navy, and was made purser of the ship Warren. He died while serving in that capacity, at Havana, in July or August, 1800, aged 43.

"The Weekly Register" was continued for seven years. At the close of the year 1797, Mr. Hubbard removed to the Landing, closing up the Register, and proposing to issue a paper more particularly devoted to the commercial part of the town.

III. This new weekly, "The Chelsea Courier," was first issued in February, 1798, and with slight variations in the title has been continued to the present time—a period of sixty-six years. Thomas Hubbard relinquished the concern to his son, Russell Hubbard, Nov. 13, 1805; the transfer being accompanied with a change of heading to *Norwich Courier*, its present title.

In February, 1817, Theophilus R. Marvin became a partner in the concern, and for a couple of years the paper was issued by Hubbard & Marvin, but it then reverted to Mr. Hubbard, whose last number bears the date of April 3, 1822. [Vol. 26, No. 22.]

The Courier then passed into the hands of Robinson & Dunham, (Thomas Robinson and John Dunham,) who commenced a new series, April 10, 1822. Robinson retired from the firm in March, 1825, but the paper was continued by Mr. Dunham to September, 1842,—more than twenty years.

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\* Several of Mr. Bushnell's poetical effusions were circulated in MS. after his decease. One of them, written on the coast of Cuba, was an apology for not joining his brother officers, during their rambles on the shore, in carving the names of dear ones at home on the rinds of trees. The sentiment was tender and refined, showing how his sensitive nature shrunk from the bare possibility that strangers with coarse feelings might utter their rude jests over "*my much loved Susan's name*."

The next editor of the *Courier* was Rev. Dorson E. Sykes, who, in March, 1843, added a tri-weekly to the issue, and continued to occupy the position of editor and proprietor for sixteen years and a half. He published his valedictory March 2, 1859.

George B. Smith, a young printer from Springfield, having purchased the establishment, enlarged the weekly paper to a folio of eight pages, and instead of a tri-weekly, issued a handsome *Daily Courier*, No. 1, Dec. 1, 1858. Both papers were well printed, and highly creditable to the taste and enterprise of the editor. But he was met, almost at the outset, by financial embarrassments, and at the end of five months the *Courier* again reverted to Mr. Sykes, under whose supervision and control it continued till 1861, when the *Daily Courier* was dropped, and the *Weekly Courier* published in connection with the *Morning Bulletin*.\*

The *Chelsea Courier* being in point of fact a continuation of the *Weekly Register*,—with the same press, proprietor, and general character,—with nothing to mark the difference except change of name and locality, might be regarded without great impropriety as one individuality, having for its birthday Nov. 29, 1790. In this list, however, we have arranged them as distinct publications.

IV. “The True Republican” was the fourth newspaper issued in Norwich. Consider Sterry, John Sterry and Epaphras Porter were the printers, editors and proprietors. It was devoted to the Jeffersonian system of policy, and was continued about three years, beginning in June, 1804.

V. “The Native American” made its first appearance in February, 1812. It was published at Norwich Town by Samuel Webb, who had served an apprenticeship with the Trumbulls, and in 1811 set up a book-store and printing-press on Norwich Green. The press was afterwards removed to Windham, Mr. Webb’s native place, and the paper issued from thence.

VI. “The Norwich Republican” was commenced in September, 1828, by Boardman & Faulkner. The same year, a paper called the “Stonington Telegraph” was issued at Stonington, John T. Adams editor.† In

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\* Mr. Sykes, who edited the *Courier* for so long a period, removed to California, where he still resides.

† Though entering upon public life as an Editor, and now a State Senator, Mr. Adams has devoted himself more assiduously to literature than to political affairs. He is the author of several tales of American life, published anonymously. One of these, *The Lost Hunter*, is a story of the last century, the scene of which is placed in Norwich and its neighborhood. It embodies some of the rich old legends of the place, and is interspersed with vivid descriptions of its varied scenery.



1829 these two publications were united, and under the double title published at Norwich by Adams & Faulkner. The double title was soon relinquished, and the paper continued under its original name.

In September, 1834, it went into the hands of Malzar Gardner, by whom it was published for eighteen months. A new series began April 15, 1835, under Whig management; Marcus B. Young publisher, and La Fayette S. Foster editor. It was discontinued in 1838.

VII. "The Canal of Intelligence," begun in May, 1826, by Levi Huntington Young, was continued about three years.

VIII. "The Norwich Spectator," first issued in November, 1829,—Park Benjamin editor, and Marcus B. Young publisher. This was of short continuance. It was revived in 1842 by John G. Cooley, but soon ceased.

IX. The "Norwich Free Press," commenced in February, 1830, by Marcus B. Young, but soon discontinued.

X. "The Aurora" was first issued May 20, 1835, by J. Holbrook, who had previously published a paper at Brooklyn, (Windham county.) In July, 1838, it passed into the hands of Gad S. Gilbert, by whom it was published under the title of the "Norwich Aurora," which it still retains. Gilbert's connection with it terminated in May, 1842, and it was afterwards successively conducted by William Trench and Trench & Conklin. Since Aug. 8, 1844, it has been issued by John W. Stedman, as editor, proprietor, and printer.

A Daily Aurora was connected with it for one year, viz., 1860.

XI. "The Norwich News," published by William Faulkner from 1843 to 1848, inclusive.

XII. "The Norwich Gleaner," commenced Jan. 1, 1845, by Benjamin F. Taylor.

XIII. "The American Patriot," 1848; a temporary enterprise, advocating the claims of Gen. Taylor to the presidency.

XIV. "The Norwich Tribune," a large, well-printed weekly, which began in January, 1852, E. S. Wells editor and proprietor, soon succeeded by Charles B. Platt and Edmund C. Stedman.\* It was discontinued in June, 1853.

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\* Mr. Stedman was at this time about twenty years of age. He has since been con-

XV. "The Examiner," published by Andrew Stark; first number issued July 16, 1853. This paper was devoted especially to the advocacy of the Maine Law, the observance of the Sabbath, and the improvement of the Common Schools, and these subjects were under the editorial supervision of Revs. H. P. Arms, J. P. Gulliver, and J. A. Goodhue. An agricultural department was attended to by Rev. William Clift. It was continued over two years; its valedictory was dated Nov. 16, 1855. The agricultural department was transferred to "The Homestead," a journal established by Mr. Stark at Hartford, when the Examiner was discontinued.

XVI. "The State Guard," Andrew Stark publisher, began in January, 1855, and ceased in May, 1856. It was an organ of the party called the Native American, or familiarly the Know-Nothing party: advocating a revision of the naturalization laws, and opposing papal and other foreign influence. Its motto was "Liberty, Country, Home." I. H. Bromley was one of its editors.

XVII. "The Weekly Reveille," issued by Walter S. Robinson; only ten or twelve numbers printed. No. 1, Oct. 8, 1858.

XVIII. "The Morning Bulletin," issued by an association formed for the special purpose of furnishing the city with a daily paper that should be enterprising in the collection of local details, and give the latest telegraphic intelligence. The first number appeared Dec. 15, 1858; published by Manning, Perry & Co.—the Co. being understood to consist of Homer Bliss and the principal editor, I. H. Bromley.

The Daily Courier and the Morning Bulletin were cotemporaneous,—making two Republican daily papers in the city. In January, 1861, the Weekly Courier and the Morning Bulletin were united, and the Daily Courier was discontinued.

In 1862, Mr. Bromley, the editor, enlisted in the army, and went into the field as captain in the 18th regiment. He was afterwards detailed to act as provost-marshal, and held this office to the close of the war, but through the whole continued in connection with the Bulletin, though not giving it his personal oversight. In 1865, he resumed his place as chief editor.

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connected with the New York Tribune and other city papers. He is the author of "Alice of Monmouth," a fine lyric poem, or "Idyl of the Great War," and various other poems: one of which, a satirical effusion, thrown like a lance at a passing event, and called "The Diamond Wedding," obtained a wide temporary circulation.



*Uncas and the Indian Graves.*

The ancient Indian Cemetery, heavily shadowed with a native growth of trees, is now little more than an inclosure for the Uncas Monument.

During the summer of 1833, General Jackson, President of the United States, with a part of his Cabinet, made a tour through a portion of the Eastern States. The citizens of Norwich had long been desirous of erecting some memorial of respect for their "*Old Friend*," the Mohegan Sachem, and they suddenly decided to celebrate the visit of the President by connecting it with the interesting ceremony of laying the corner-stone of an Uncas monument.

The Presidential party came from Hartford by land, arriving by the Essex turnpike in open coaches, with a brilliant escort of cavalry that had gone forth to meet them. Vice-President Van Buren, Gov. Edwards of Connecticut, Major Donelson, and Messrs. Cass, Woodbury and Poinsett, Secretaries of War, Navy and State, formed the party. They arrived at 3 o'clock P. M., paused a few moments at the Falls, and then advanced to the Cemetery, where a great assemblage of the inhabitants, military companies, bands of children with banners and mottoes, and a few scattered Indians from Mohegan, received the visitors with martial salutes and joyful acclamations.

At the cemetery, where all stood with uncovered heads, N. L. Shipman, Esq., in behalf of the Association, gave a brief sketch of the family of Uncas and the existing condition of the tribe. The President then moved the foundation-stone to its place. It was an interesting, suggestive ceremony: a token of respect from the modern warrior to the ancient,—from the emigrant race to the aborigines. General Cass, in a short but eloquent address to the multitude, observed that the earth afforded but few more striking spectacles than that of one hero doing homage at the tomb of another.

The ceremony being concluded, the children sang a hymn, and the Presidential party passed away, pausing again at the Landing for refreshments, and embarking from thence in a steamer for New London.

Though the corner-stone was thus auspiciously prepared, no funds had been obtained or plans matured for the erection of the monument. The ladies at length took hold of the work, and brought it to a successful issue. Embracing the opportunity of a political mass-meeting, which assembled at Norwich, Oct. 15, 1840, in honor of Harrison and Tyler, they prepared a refreshment fair,—with generous enthusiasm arranged and filled their tables,—took their station as saleswomen, and with the profits paid for the monument.

It consists of a simple granite obelisk, with no inscription but the name,—

### UNCAS.\*

The raising of the shaft, and fixing it upon the foundation-stone, was the occasion of another festival. This was on the 4th of July, 1842, at which time William L. Stone of New York delivered an Historical Discourse on the Life and Times of the Sachem.†

Among the persons present in the tent where the address was delivered, were ten citizens of the place over 75 years of age:

Erastus Perkins, 89.

Samuel Avery, 88.

Seabury Brewster, 86.

Christopher Vail, 82.

Bela Peck, 82.

Ichabod Ward, 80.

Newcomb Kinney, 80.

Benjamin Snow, 77.

Nathaniel Shipman, 76.

Zachariah Huntington, 75.

The whole space inclosed as the Uncas Cemetery, and probably the ground for some distance upon its border, is thickly seeded with Indian graves, though but very few inscribed stones or even hillocks remain. The only inscription of any particular interest is on the grave-stone of Samuel Uncas, one of the latest of the Uncas family that bore even the nominal title of Sachem, and who died not long before the Revolutionary war. An exact representation of the stone in its present ruinous state is given on the opposite page. It bears no date. The epitaph, written by Dr. Elisha Tracy, reads thus:

### SAMUEL UNCAS.

For Beauty, wit, for Sterling sense,

For temper mild, for Eliquence,

For Courage Bold, for things wauregan,

He was the Glory of Moheagon.

Whose death has Caused great lamentation,

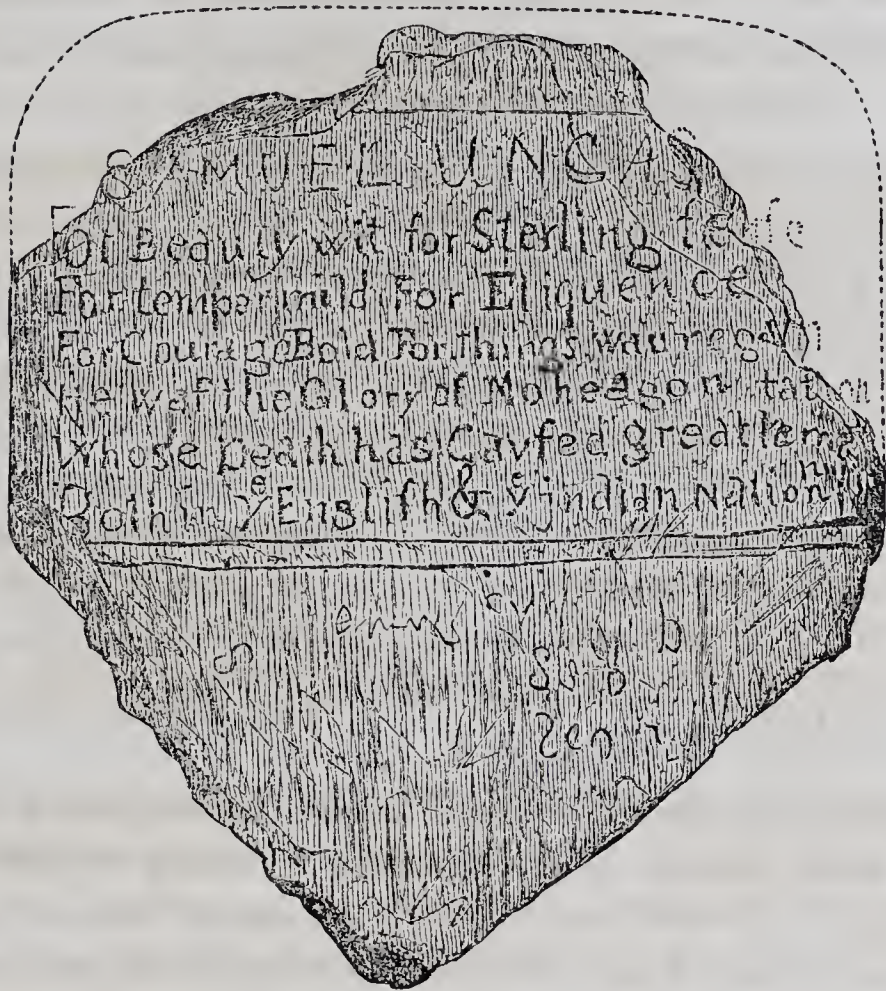
Both in ye English and ye Indian Nation.

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\* The Rev. Mr. Fitch, in 1675, wrote this name *Unkus*. Before the monument was completed, G. L. Perkins, Esq., who had charge of the undertaking, wrote letters to Noah Webster, the philologist, Thomas Day, Secretary of the State of Connecticut, and Col. Wm. L. Stone, a diligent investigator of Indian history, to inquire what they would consider the most eligible mode of spelling the name to be inscribed on the obelisk. They all concurred in recommending the modern orthography,—*Uncas*.

† Published afterwards in a small duodecimo volume, entitled “Uncas and Miantonomoh.”





*The Bi-Centennial Celebration.*

The two hundredth anniversary of the town was celebrated by a magnificent festival of two days continuance,—occupying Wednesday and Thursday, 7th and 8th of September, 1859.

The arrangements for this great jubilee had been planned with a wise forecast. A committee of preparation had been for a year in office; invitations had been extensively circulated, and a general enthusiasm prevailed among the sons and daughters of Norwich and their descendants, far and near, to honor this interesting birthday. It was aptly termed the great Golden Wedding of the town, kept in remembrance of the hallowed union of the Puritan emigrant and his wilderness bride, two hundred years before.

“Here where the tangled thicket grew,  
Where wolf and panther passed,  
An acorn from an English oak  
In the rude soil was cast.”

A vast fraternity, genial intercourse, cordial fellowship, and lavish exchanges of thought and fact, were confidently expected, and seldom are joyful anticipations and enlarged plans so fully realized.



The weather seemed adapted to the occasion. The season in all its bearings harmonized with the festal robes and out-door encampments with which the inhabitants prepared their dear old homestead for the reception of its guests. A general glow of happiness pervaded every countenance. The absentees, the wanderers, the distant relatives, friends and neighbors assembled. It was a mighty gathering, but yet far more orderly and quiet than a customary militia muster, or political convention. It was an ovation, hilarious and triumphant, but not tumultuous. The devotional element was not perhaps sufficiently prevalent to chime with the principles of "two hundred years ago,"—but on the other hand, there was no bacchanal accompaniment, no rude disturbance to break the swell of a note of music or the sound of a speaker's voice, and it was said not a solitary case of inebriety was observed during the whole festival.

The most conspicuous features of the celebration were these :

The decoration of the streets and buildings, and the erection of a wide-winged tent upon the Parade.

A grand procession, military and civic, half a mile in extent, that made the tour of the town, with banners, bands of music, and exhibitions of trades and professions, many of them in active operation.

Two historical discourses of lasting value and interest.

Two descriptive addresses of an oratorical character,—impressive and eloquent in a high degree.

A dinner, with numerous toasts and speeches.

A closing ball at the great tent on the town park or parade.

The various exercises were interspersed and enlivened with original poetry and good singing. A descriptive poem by Anson G. Chester of Syracuse, N. Y., was one of the expected entertainments of the festival, but owing to the severe illness of the poet it was not delivered.

It was estimated that at this celebration 1500 flags were spread upon the wind,—not only those of our own country, but the motley emblems of all nations. Several magnificent arches were erected at prominent points. A very tasteful arch in Franklin street represented two clasped hands,—1659 and 1859, with the motto, "A Hearty Greeting."

General David Young was the chief marshal of the ceremonies. Governor Buckingham presided in the assemblies. Ex-President Fillmore was the most distinguished guest. The Bi-Centennial Discourse was by Daniel C. Gilman ; the Discourse on the Life and Times of John Mason, by Hon. John A. Rockwell. The other addresses, or more properly orations, were by Rt. Rev. Alfred Lee, Bishop of Delaware, and Donald G. Mitchell.

The speakers were all natives of the town, and had the same object in view, gratefully to commemorate the scenes and influences by which they had been nurtured. It was beautiful to see with what variety of touch



they struck the key-note, producing with great diversity of tone, entire harmony. The faithful historic record, the biography of the founder, the chastened retrospect, and the graceful survey of the two centuries of the town's life, presented by the orators, each in his own characteristic style, converged upon the same theme—Norwich, our Home.

Many interesting incidents were connected with this great festivity. The corner-stone of a monument to the memory of Mason, the Conqueror of the Pequots, was laid in Yantic Cemetery. A dinner was given by General Williams to the Mohegans, of which more than sixty of the remains of that tribe partook. Mrs. Wm. P. Greene, as a memorial of the celebration, presented a house and grounds to the Free Academy for the residence of the principal, valued at \$7,000. Mr. Giles L'Homme-dieu, the oldest native-born American in the town, was then in his last illness, and the procession passed the house where he lay, in reverential silence. He died six days after the celebration, in the ninety-fourth year of his age.

A history of the celebration, including the preliminary measures and a registry of the various committees, with the addresses, poems, hymns, speeches, and particulars of interest connected with the great festival, was published by John W. Stedman of Norwich, in a well-executed, attractive volume, entitled *The Norwich Jubilee*. The work was compiled, printed and published by Mr. Stedman; the paper was manufactured at the Chelsea Mill, and the whole book in its print, binding and illustrations is a Norwich production. As a memorial volume it is of enduring interest. Its contents are so comprehensive as to render it unnecessary to give in this history any thing more than the foregoing brief outline of the two grand Red Letter Days of the bi-centennial commemoration.

The year 1859 was the bi-centennial anniversary of the signing of the purchase deed, and of the preliminary steps taken by the proprietors in laying out the town, but the anniversary of the actual settlement, when woman arrived upon the ground and homes were constituted, was more definitely the year 1860.

It is to be regretted that a prominent measure, often referred to by the speakers, and discussed in the committees,—supposed indeed to be decisively settled and pledged,—has since the two days of rejoicing been entirely overlooked. This is the erection of a monument to the memory of Major John Mason, which as yet has gone no further than the planting of the corner-stone.

The Yantic Cemetery, where the corner-stone is laid, does not, however, seem to be the most appropriate place for the proposed monument. The beautiful elevation in the western part of the town, where his remains lie unhonored, unmistakably and imperatively claims the memorial.



*Missions and Missionaries.*

Norwich is justly entitled to the credit of having manifested a more than ordinary devotion to the cause of missions. This interest commenced with the Rev. Mr. Fitch, and the exertions made by him to teach and Christianize the Mohegans. It was coeval with the settlement, and seems never to have died out of the place.

After Mr. Fitch, the Rev. Samuel Kirkland is doubtless the brightest exponent of this missionary spirit the town has produced. The welfare, temporal and spiritual, of the poor untutored tribes of the wilderness, appears to have been the inspiring object and main pursuit of Mr. Kirkland's whole life. Having been well prepared for his work by an education at the Indian School of Dr. Wheelock in Lebanon, and the College of New Jersey, where he graduated in 1765, he cast in his lot among the Oneida Indians, and for a period of forty-four years acted as their pastor, teacher, friend, and guardian,—living a part of the time among them, and always spending a large portion of each year with them, or in their immediate neighborhood. He was born in Newent Society, then a part of Norwich, Dec. 1, 1741, and died on a farm given him by the Oneida tribe, near Clinton, N. Y., Feb. 28, 1808.\*

Rev. John Ellis, of West Farms, if a correct judgment can be formed from the scanty memorials left of him, was a man of energetic action, glowing with Christian enterprise. He took a lively interest in those pioneer missions to the West that preceded the formation of the Connecticut Missionary Society, and was agent and treasurer of the General Association in New London county, as the following notice testifies:

Whereas the General Association at their session in September, 1744, appointed me to receive the Monies that might be collected in the several Churches in New London County for executing a plan proposed of sending Missionaries to the infant settlements north and northwestward: These therefore are to desire said Monies may be sent in, it being necessary to transmit the same shortly to the Committee intrusted with the oversight and prosecution of that truly Christian undertaking.

JOHN ELLIS.

Norwich, Feb. 2, 1775.

The Connecticut Missionary Society was formed by the General Association in May, 1798. Joshua Lathrop of Norwich, and Jedidiah Huntington of New London, were among the original trustees, and each retained this connection during the remainder of his life. Societies in aid of this institution were formed by ladies both in the Town Plot and Chelsea in 1799.†

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\* Rev. John Thornton Kirkland, D. D., LL. D., President of Harvard College from 1800 to 1828, was his son.

† "At the collection for the support of missionaries, made in Chelsea, last Sunday,



The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions was organized in September, 1810. In the spring of 1812, auxiliaries to this institution were formed in New London and in Norwich. The first president of the Norwich Society was Rev. Joseph Strong, D. D., and of the New London Society, Gen. Jedidiah Huntington, one of the corporate members of the Board. These two auxiliaries kept on their way with commendable constancy, with no failures or gaps in their annual contributions and reports, to the year 1850, when they were united into one body under the title of the Norwich and New London Foreign Missionary Society. This association includes all the towns in New London county, except Lyme. A semi-centennial anniversary, to commemorate the organization of the two original branches, was held by the United Society at Norwich Town in October, 1862.

The 23d anniversary of the A. B. C. F. M. was held at Norwich in September, 1842.

At this meeting, 355 corporate and honorary members were present, with eight returned missionaries, and Mar Yohannan, the Nestorian Bishop, who was then on a visit to this country. The committee of arrangements consisted of Rev. Alvan Bond, D. D., Rev. H. P. Arms, Charles W. Rockwell, William C. Gilman, and F. A. Perkins. It was estimated that 600 persons from abroad attended the meeting, a large proportion of them clergymen.

The number of persons, natives or established residents of the old town of Norwich, who have enlisted, first and last, as missionaries of the cross, either to the Indians of our own country, or to the heathen of foreign lands, is comparatively large.

The family of Charles Lathrop, Esq., is honorably distinguished in this line.\* Four of his daughters were united to missionaries of the American Board, and three of them died in the East Indies. The eldest, Mrs. Miron Winslow, (Harriet W. Lathrop,) left this country June 8, 1819, and lived to accomplish thirteen years of useful and interesting service in Ceylon. Mrs. Henry Cherry, (Charlotte H. Lathrop,) of the Madura mission, died in less than a year after her arrival in Hindostan. Rev. John M. S. Perry and his amiable partner, (Harriet J. Lathrop,) in less

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Major Joseph Williams liberally contributed the sum of ten dollars." *Norwich Courier*, May 7, 1798. The special notice taken of this donation shows that giving for the support of missions was but just beginning to be considered a duty. The contribution of the Ladies' Society of the Town-plot in May, 1801, was \$37.37; of that of Chelsea, \$22.56.

\* Mr. Lathrop died Jan. 17, 1831, aged 61. He had been Clerk of the Courts in New London County twenty-one years, and was a highly esteemed church officer.

than two years after they reached the field of their labor in Ceylon, fell a sacrifice to the cholera within three days of each other. Rev. Samuel Hutchings and wife, (Elizabeth C. Lathrop,) after ten years of missionary labor in Ceylon, warned by the declining health of Mr. Hutchings to seek a colder climate, returned to this country in 1844.

Rev. Samuel Nott and his wife, (Roxana Peck,) natives of Franklin, were members of the pioneer band of missionaries sent by the American Board to India in 1812. Meeting with insuperable obstacles to the success of their mission, arising from the opposition made to it by the British Government, both duty and expediency required them to relinquish the work, and they returned in 1815.

Rev. James T. Dickinson resigned the ministry of the Second Congregational Church for the purpose of devoting himself to missionary service. He sailed for India, Aug. 20, 1835, and was stationed at Singapore, but that mission being relinquished by the American Board, he returned to this country after an absence of three or four years.

Mrs. Eli Smith, (Sarah L. Huntington,) an interesting daughter of Norwich, died in Syria, Sept. 30, 1836, before the close of the third year of her missionary life.

Rev. William Aitcheson, a youthful member of the Greeneville Congregational Church, was ordained as a missionary, Jan. 4, 1854, and sailed the next year for China. He entered with bright promise upon his work in that vast realm of heathenism, but died suddenly at Shanghai, August 16, 1859, aged 33.

Rev. Erastus Wentworth, D. D., another messenger of the Good Tidings to the Chinese, is a native of Norwich, where the first eighteen years of his life were spent. He left the Professorship of Natural Science in Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penn., and went out in 1854, in connection with the mission of the Methodist Episcopal Society. His station was at Foo-chow, a city of half a million inhabitants, capital of the Fokien province. His wife, who was a grand-daughter of Charles Miner, (originally of Norwich, but late of Wilkesbarre,) died soon after his arrival in China. He returned to this country in 1862.

Rev. Wm. F. Arms, son of Rev. Dr. Arms of the First Church, went out on a mission to the Armenians of Asiatic Turkey, but returned after a short period, the mission having been relinquished by the Board.

Mrs. Sarah J. Haskell, wife of Dr. Henri B. Haskell, a missionary physician connected with the mission to the Turkish dominions, is a daughter of Patrick Brewster of Norwich Town. The failing health of Dr. Haskell obliged them to leave the mission and return home. He died at Norwich, Feb. 27, 1864, aged 33.

But the veteran of the Norwich missionary band is Rev. WILLIAM TRACY, who embarked for the Madura mission Nov. 28, 1836, and is still



a laborer in that wide and rugged field, rooting out Hindoo tares, and sowing the good seed of the Better Land. Mr. Tracy was born at Norwich, June 2, 1807.

The General Association of Congregational Ministers of Connecticut celebrated its 150th anniversary at Norwich, in June, 1859. The meetings were held in the Second Church, Chelsea. The historical anniversary sermon was by Rev. Leonard Bacon, D. D. It comprised a history of Congregationalism in Connecticut, from the settlement of the State to the present time.\*

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### *Post Office.*

There was no post-office in Norwich before the Revolution. The New London office was the station for letter-delivery for all the eastern border of Connecticut, to Woodstock and Pomfret north, and from Guilford to Westerly inclusive, on the Sound. Papers and bundles were usually distributed from house to house by post-riders, but letters requiring payment of postage often lay long before being claimed.†

The Norwich post-office under the Federal Government was established in 1782. Dudley Woodbridge was the postmaster for the first eight years, and the office was "next door to the meeting-house." After him came William and Christopher Leffingwell, who kept the office at Leffingwell's corner. The mails were at this time twice a week by three stage-routes: Hartford by way of Windham, New Haven by way of New London, and Boston by way of Providence.

The ancient rates of postage appear arbitrary and oppressive, when contrasted with the cheap postage of the present day. Letters advertised as lying in the post-office, about the year 1800, having the mail-charge appended, show that letters from various parts of the United States paid at that time according to distance, and that a single letter was often charged forty or fifty cents.

Gardner Carpenter, appointed postmaster in January, 1799, held the office fifteen years. He died in 1818, aged 66.

John Hyde succeeded, and was in office from 1815 to 1836, and at a

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\* A full account of this anniversary, and a collection of materials to which it gave rise, have been embodied in a memorial volume entitled "Contributions to the Ecclesiastical History of Connecticut."

† A list of letters lying in the New London office, March 19, 1756, published in the Gazette at New Haven, comprises 88,—about half for New London, the others for Groton, Stonington, Norwich, Lebanon, Windham, Ashford, Colchester, East Had-dam, Hebron, Westerly, Lyme, Saybrook, Killingworth, Guilford, Branford, and Long Island.

subsequent period three years, making his whole term of service twenty-four years.\*

In 1836, the title of the office was changed to *Norwich Town*, and the original name transferred to the City office. Since that time the postmaster has been often changed,—Henry B. Tracy, who held the appointment twelve years, being the longest in office. The present incumbent is George D. Fuller.

The post-office at the Landing was established in 1803, and was then entitled *Chelsea Landing*; this style was changed in 1827 to *Norwich City*, and in 1836 to *Norwich*, the old designation of the town post-office.

The first incumbents of this office were Jacob DeWitt and his son John. The latter was postmaster from 1809 to 1823. Since that period the changes have been frequent, the office being one of those most liable to be swayed by partizan partiality. William L'Hommedieu, first appointed in 1829, held the office at two periods, in all nearly seventeen years. This is the longest term of office. H. H. Starkweather is the present incumbent.†

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#### *Town Clerks.*

1. John Birchard, 1661; no record of appointment; in office eighteen years.

2. Christopher Huntington, appointed Dec. 30, 1678, and in office till his death, 1691: thirteen years.

3. Richard Bushnell, Dec. 21, 1691; in office seven years.

4. Christopher Huntington, son of the former clerk of this name, 1698; in office four years.

Richard Bushnell, second appointment, Dec. 15, 1702; in office twenty-four years.

5. Isaac Huntington, (son of No. 4,) appointed Dec. 6, 1726, and in office till his death, Feb., 1764.

6. Benjamin Huntington, March 5, 1764; in office nearly two years.

7. Benjamin Huntington, Jr., (son of No. 5,) Dec. 6, 1765; in office thirteen years.

8. Samuel Tracy, Dec. 21, 1778; in office one year.

Benjamin Huntington, Jr., Dec. 13, 1779; nearly twenty-two years, till his death, Sept., 1801.

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\* Mr. Hyde was a son of Col. Ezekiel Hyde of Franklin. Besides being postmaster, he was Judge of the County Court and Court of Probate. He is remembered also as a school-teacher,—a friend of the young, and an enemy to all oppression. He died March 16, 1848, aged 74.

† For an official statement of postal affairs in Norwich, see *Norwich Jubilee*, page 294.



9. Philip Huntington, son of Benjamin, Dec. 14, 1801; twenty-one to his death, Feb. 4, 1825.

10. Benjamin Huntington, son of Philip, Feb. 14, 1825; in office nearly four years.

11. William L'Hommedieu, Oct. 6, 1828; one year.

Benjamin Huntington, former clerk, Oct. 5, 1829; one year.

12. Alexander Lathrop, Oct. 4, 1830; five years.

13. John H. Grace, Oct. 3, 1836; one year.

14. Simeon Thomas, Oct. 2, 1837; two years.

15. Othniel Gager, Oct. 1, 1839, and still in office.

City Clerks since 1826, when the Town-plot was separated from the City :

1827. John A. Rockwell, four years.

1831. Alexander Lathrop, who died in July, 1836.

1836. George Perkins, eight years.

1844. David Young, seven years.

1851. Levi Hart Goddard, four years.

1855. John L. Devotion.

1856. Charles Bard.

1857. Othniel Gager.

1861. John L. Devotion.

### *Ship-Building and Shipping Intelligence.*

Norwich at a very early period was considered a favorable site for ship-building, and many small vessels,—sloops, packets, and boats,—were built in the river and sent abroad for sale, the banks of the Thames affording an abundance of timber. At a later period large vessels have occasionally been constructed in the river.

The Truxton was launched from Willett's ship-yard, June 6, 1799. This was built on private account, pierced for eighteen guns, and designed both for war and merchandise. She cleared from New London, August 20, and proceeded to New York, where she took in a cargo for Spain.

The brig Suwarrow was built by Willett the same year.

The Trumbull was a war-vessel constructed by Willett for the American Government, which was then anticipating a conflict with France, and desirous of raising a navy in the shortest time possible. Joseph Howland was the agent. The keel was laid in September, and the work plied in such haste that labor was not suspended during the Sabbath, and scarcely through the dead hours of the night.

Willett, in the year 1777, had constructed the continental ship Trum-

bull, and now another Trumbull was to be honored with a namesake, and the launch, which took place Nov. 28th, was graced with the Governor's presence. The figure-head displayed his image, with his left foot on a cannon, the American flag furled by his side, and a drawn sword in his right hand. She grounded in going down the river, half a league below the town, and it was two days before she again floated.

The Trumbull was armed and equipped at New London. She carried eighteen guns, and sailed on her first cruise March 7, 1800, under Capt. David Jewett of Montville.\*

The Oliver Ellsworth, a merchant-ship of nearly 400 tons burden, constructed by Willett, was owned principally in New London, and was sent the next spring to St. Petersburg, Joseph Skinner master, returning from thence in October, 1801, with a cargo of hemp, duck, and iron.

The brig Resolution, 325 tons, built for Daniel Dunham, was launched Dec. 20, 1800.

The Patty, another large merchant-vessel, built for Hezekiah Kelley, was launched the same year, and sent on her first voyage to Ireland. She was so good a sailer that the distance from Newry to Liverpool, 130 miles, was made in ten hours.

The brig Neptune was built by Willett in 1801; the keel laid in April, and the vessel launched the 8th of October.

The brig Ceres was built in 1804, for Roswell Roath, and named after the ship Ceres, taken by the French in 1796.

In 1805, Willett and Gavitt each launched a vessel of 300 tons, and Story one of lighter burden.

July, 1806. "Dropped down to New London the new ship Stabroeck, Cooley, for Barbadoes."

The year 1810 was remarkable for activity in the Norwich ship-yards.

July 9. A brig of 250 tons, called the Dart, and owned by Augustus Perkins, James Gordon, and others, was launched from the lower ship-yard of Thomas Gavitt.

Sept. 1. A vessel launched, of 200 tons, built by Septimus Clark for J. and Felix A. Huntington.

Sept. 14. A ship of 400 tons launched by Luther Edgerton.

In October, a vessel of 350 tons, sent from the ways of Thos. Gavitt.

Of a fifth vessel built this year, the Norwich Courier of Nov. 25 gives the following notice :

"Launched by permission on Sunday morning from the yard of Jedidiah Willett, a ship of 400 tons, owned by Peter Lanman and others."

This was at a time when the country was looking forward apprehensively to a war with England. The ship in question was probably the

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\* The Trumbull was sold by the Government in May, 1801, for \$26,500.



Rapid, which cleared early in January for Cayenne, and made two or three voyages before the declaration of war. During the war, the O. H. Perry, 267 tons, the Marmion, and other privateer schooners, were built at West Chelsea.

After 1820, several whale-ships were built at Norwich: among them were the Connecticut in 1821, and the Chelsea in 1827, ships of 396 tons burden, owned by T. W. Williams of New London.

From 1832 to 1835, two whale-ships and a sealing-schooner were fitted out from Norwich. The ships were the Boston, 291, and the Atlas, 261 tons. After one or two voyages they were transferred, the former to New London, and the latter to Mystic.

In 1832, Capt. Walter Lester made a voyage to Bremen in the brig Ospray. The next year he chartered the ship Boston for the same port, and went himself in her as passenger, taking a part of his family with him. He sailed from New London March 30th. His return is thus noticed in the marine lists of the day:

23 Aug. 1833. "Arrived ship Boston, Levi Case, 50 days from Bremen, with iron to Lester & Co., Norwich: passengers, Capt. Walter Lester, lady and daughter; Mr. Louis Mangler of Germany, and 112 in the steerage."

The Boston ascended the river without difficulty, and with the tide in her favor, came with her lading to the wharf. It was the first instance of direct intercourse with Europe after the war of 1812. No other merchant ship appeared in the port for the next twenty-six years.

In June, 1859, the barque Samuel Moxley, from Mobile, Capt. Joseph H. Holm master, having discharged a portion of her cargo in New York, came into the Thames, and drawing but five and a half feet of water, ascended easily to the wharfage. Capt. Holm was the son-in-law of Capt. Lester, and it is an interesting incident in this narrative that he was in the Boston in 1833, an emigrant then just arriving in this country, and in the Samuel Moxley in 1859, as its commander and principal owner.

## CHAPTER XLVIII.

### RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS.

#### *Baptists.*

THE Separatists gathered a small church in that part of the town which was formerly called Norwich Plains, or familiarly Leffingwell-town, now the south-eastern part of Bozrah. This *Separate Meeting*, as it was called, had but a brief existence, but out of the society thus collected, a small Baptist church was formed, chiefly through the instrumentality of Elder Zadok Darrow of Waterford. It was recognized by the New London Baptist Association in 1789, and the next year Peter Rogers was ordained its elder.

This was the first Baptist church regularly organized, and Elder Rogers the first Baptist minister ordained within the bounds of the Nine-miles-square. The elder had been a revolutionary soldier, and was a man of marked character; without culture or refinement, but overflowing with religious zeal.

This little society held together about twelve years under the ministrations of Elder Rogers and his successor Samuel West. After this period, having no stated ministry, it languished and then expired. Its house of worship, of which only the outside had been finished, was left without pews or pulpit for nearly forty years.

In August, 1831, the present Baptist church of Bozrah was organized at this center, and the old meeting-house retrieved from its ghost-like ruin.

The distinction of being the first regular Baptists within the present limits of Norwich, is awarded to Ephraim Story and Elijah Herrick of West Chelsea. They had been members of neighboring churches of Separatists, and soon after 1790 began to hold *night meetings*\* at their own houses for mutual edification. Whenever they were visited by the neighboring Baptist elders, and the congregation was too large for a private room, they assembled in the school-house, or, if the weather was

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\* The term *night meetings* was at first used by way of reproach, as meetings after sundown in the evening were at that time unusual in the regular religious societies.



sufficiently mild, in a grove upon the hill-side, or in a neighboring ropewalk.\* At first they were recognized as a branch of the church at Kingston, R. I., but were organized as a church July 12, 1800.

The origin of the church is thus related in a document emanating from the church itself:†

“In the year 1800 it pleased the Lord to collect and unite, from a broken and scattered condition, a few brethren and sisters, to the number of about 20, who were constituted into a church in fellowship with the Groton Union Conference. On the 25th Dec. following, our beloved Elder was ordained and took the pastoral charge of the Church.”

This beloved Elder was John Sterry, who had been for some time previous an acceptable leader in their meetings. Christopher Palmer of Montville had also labored among them, and assisted in their organization.

The ordination services were performed in the Congregational church. Elder Silas Burrows of Groton preached the sermon. Dewey Bromley was at the same time ordained as first deacon of the church.

The frame of a house of worship was raised by the society in 1801, and the building so far completed that services were held in it before the end of the year, but it remained long in an unfinished state.

This church gathered in most of the inhabitants of the west side:—Bromley, Gavitt, Herrick, Willett,—these are names identified with West Chelsea and with the Baptist church.

In 1811, Eleazar Hatch left a bequest in his will of three or four thousand dollars, the interest of which was to be applied to the support of the Baptist ministry in West Chelsea.

Elder Sterry died Nov. 5, 1823, in the 23d year of his ministry, and 57th of his age. He was a native of Preston, but had resided from his youth in the First Society in Norwich, where he served his apprenticeship as a printer and book-binder, and subsequently set up the business for himself. In partnership with his brother, Consider Sterry, he published the newspaper called *The True Republican*. He was also engaged with Epaphras Porter in the manufacture of marble-paper; a work which he undertook and successfully prosecuted from resources out of his own inventive mind, without any previous instruction in the art. He also kept a book-store, and compiled school-books;‡ and being a fluent and forcible speaker, large demands were made upon him in the way of preaching and

\* Denison's Notes on the Baptists of Norwich.

† Letter to the New London Baptist Association in 1817, from “*The Baptized Church in Norwich*, under the Pastoral care of John Sterry, Elder.” Denison's Notes, p. 59.

‡ “*The American Youth*, a new and complete course of Arithmetic and Mathematics: by John Sterry.” Norwich, 1812. Of this work he was compiler, printer, and publisher.

exhortation. The meritorious self-denial of his pastoral service can not be overrated, as his pecuniary recompense was but a mere pittance.

His successor as pastor of the church was Elder William Palmer, who commenced his labors April 1, 1824, and continued in charge about ten years. He was a grandson of Elder Christopher Palmer, who has been mentioned as one of the forefathers of the church. In the meantime the congregation outgrew the meeting-house. It was removed in 1832, and a new house of worship reared on the same spot, which was dedicated in July, 1833.

After the departure of Elder Palmer, the pastoral duties were discharged by Messrs. Samuel S. Mallory, Josiah M. Graves, and Russell Jennings, in succession, neither of them exceeding two years of service. These frequent changes, and other unfavorable circumstances, operating against the prosperity of the church, led the way to a new Baptist enterprise, which issued at length in the establishment of the present Central Church. At this period the church at West Chelsea almost died out. The meeting-house was closed, and finally sold to cancel a debt of \$1500 that had been incurred.

In 1841, Elder Palmer, the former pastor, was prevailed on to resume the office, and the meeting-house, hired for the purpose, was again opened for religious services. He resigned in 1845, but continued to reside in Norwich till his death, which took place Dec. 25, 1853.

Elder Palmer was one of the eleven ministers who organized the New London Baptist Association in 1817; had served from year to year as its sole clerk, and was the last of the eleven originators to leave the earth.

Mr. Palmer's successor in the pulpit was Miner H. Rising. The church-members at this time were but few in number, as the Bromley family and others who had united with the new church did not return. But in 1845 and '46, through the influence of a revival which commenced with a protracted meeting conducted by Rev. J. S. Swan, great accessions were made to the church, and the total membership reported 276.

The church-edifice was at this time redeemed, and Mr. Rising ordained. The health of the pastor, however, soon failed, and he was laid aside from ministerial duty. Since 1849, the ministry has been several times changed.

The Second or Central Baptist Church was gathered Sept. 15, 1840, at the house of Avery Bromley in Union street. It consisted of thirty-seven members, and was recognized by a council of the neighboring churches on the 22d of the same month. Nearly sixty members, from the West-side church, soon afterward united with them. For the first fifteen months they held their services in the town-hall, but during that time erected a house of worship on Union street, which was dedicated



Dec. 14, 1841. At that time this edifice was probably the best built, the most convenient and substantial, of all the churches in the city, the present elegant structures of other denominations being of more recent origin. The cost of the site and building was \$11,000. Elder R. H. Neale of Boston preached the dedication sermon.

Rev. Miner G. Clarke was the first minister of this church. His zeal and energy were conspicuous in originating the enterprise, in planting and sustaining the church, and in raising the house of worship. At the close of 1843, a little more than three years from its organization, the church numbered 433 members. In the spring of 1845, sixty were dismissed to unite in forming a church at Greeneville.

Mr. Clarke resigned his situation in March, 1846, after a pastorate of nearly six years. The succession of pastors, since, is as follows:

Rev. Edward T. Hiscox, from April, 1847, to September, 1852.

Rev. Joseph A. Goodhue, two years.

Rev. Frederick Denison,\* from November, 1854, to April, 1859.

Rev. Samuel Graves, the present pastor, entered upon the duties of his office in November, 1859.

In 1863, the church edifice was enlarged, repaired, and in various particulars remodeled, at an expense of \$7000. The organ of the church was purchased in 1849, and cost \$800.

The Central Church commemorated its 25th anniversary Sept. 24th, 1865. The number of members reported was 365. An interesting fact was stated by the pastor, that all the officers of the church during this quarter of a century,—its five pastors, nine deacons, two clerks, two treasurers, and five superintendents of the Sunday School,—were still living.†

A Baptist church with 100 members was organized at Greeneville in 1845, and a house of worship erected the next year. The first pastor, Rev. D. B. Cheney, was succeeded in April, 1847, by Rev. Lawson Muzzy.

In February, 1854, during the pastorate of Rev. Niles Whiting, the church was consumed by fire. It was replaced by an edifice of brick, at a cost of \$5000. The new church was dedicated Dec. 21, 1854; sermon by Rev. J. B. Swan.

Mr. Whiting, the pastor, to whose perseverance and energy the success of the enterprise was largely indebted, did not live to see the new church completed. He died Oct. 13, 1854, in his 43d year.

The membership of this church has never risen much above or fallen far below its original number, 100.

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\* Mr. Denison is author of "Notes on the Baptists of New London County," and of various communications to periodical works in the line of historical research, particularly in regard to the formation of churches.

† Historical Discourse, by Rev. Samuel Graves. Norwich, 1865.

*Methodists.*

A grave-stone in the Chelsea burial-ground records the death of Capt. Moses Pierce, who was drowned May 4, 1781, aged 61; and of Mrs. Thankful Pierce, his relict, who died Feb. 3, 1821, aged 92; to which is added:

"She was a mother in Israel, and the first member of the Methodist Episcopal Church in this town, who, like Lydia, first heard the preachers, and then received them into her house."

This lady, while on a visit to some relations in Tolland in the year 1796, met with the Rev. Jesse Lee, a noted preacher in the Wesleyan connection, and became deeply interested in his preaching. Shortly afterwards, on his way to Boston, Mr. Lee stopped at Norwich, and preached the first Methodist sermon at her house. The ground was well-prepared, advocates and well-wishers of the new doctrine having been for several years looking forward to this result.

Other preachers followed, and classes were soon formed both at Chelsea and Bean Hill. At the latter place, Capt. James Hyde and Mr. William Lamb were the most noted among the early converts. In Chelsea the society enjoyed for a while the fostering care of Mr. Beatty, a resident of the place, at whose house there was always preaching once a fortnight. But in 1804, Mr. Beatty, with several of his friends and their families, removing to Sandusky, the society seemed to be threatened with utter extinction,—the only members of note that remained being two aged women, Mrs. Pierce and Mrs. Davison. They were however kept together, and their numbers enlarged, principally through the exertions of a young man, who became an exhorter, class-leader, and finally a local preacher in their connection. This was Rev. D. N. Bentley, who for fifty years may be regarded as the main pillar of the Methodist Church in Chelsea. His wife, Mrs. Letitia Bentley, was also devoted to the same cause, assisting in the class-meetings, and welcoming the messengers to her house with Christian hospitality.\*

In 1811, a church was organized at Mr. Bentley's house, consisting of eleven members, and five years later a chapel was built for public services upon Wharf bridge, which was swept off and destroyed by a freshet of the river in the spring of 1823.

In May, 1825, a small church was dedicated at the Falls village, and for several years the members from the Landing resorted thither for public worship, forming but one church and society.

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\* "Died in this city, Nov. 1st, (1853,) after much suffering, which she endured as "seeing Him who is invisible," Mrs. Letitia Gardner, wife of Rev. D. N. Bentley." *Norwich Courier*.





*Yours truly D. V. Bentley*





The Methodist church in East Main street was dedicated June 18, 1835; sermon by Dr. Fisk of the Wesleyan University. This building, in size and convenience, far surpassed the previous accommodations of the society in Norwich. It has since been enlarged and refitted.

The Methodist society on Bean Hill for many years held their public services in the venerable building which had served successively and alternately for a classical academy, a free school, and a Separatist conventicle. In this extemporized chapel, many of the early noted itinerants preached in their rounds. Here Lee, Asbury, and other messengers of the church, proclaimed their message. Here Maffit delivered one of the first of his flourishing effusions on this side of the water. When the eccentric Lorenzo Dow was to preach, the bounds were too narrow, and the audience assembled in the open air, upon the hill, under the great elm.

The present Methodist church on the hill was erected in 1833.

The church belonging to the Third Congregational Society, after the disbanding of that society in 1842, was purchased by the Methodists, and is their present Sachem street church. This is the strongest Methodist society in Norwich, and the only one that numbers a hundred members. They have five churches, and report a membership in all somewhat above four hundred.

The Free Methodist Church in Main street stands upon the site once occupied by an Episcopal and afterward by a Congregational church. The trustees are bound to keep the sittings free. This church was gathered in 1854, and held its first meetings in a large hall upon central wharf. Its early ministrations were conducted chiefly by the Rev. L. D. Bentley, a son of Elder D. N. Bentley, who follows the footsteps of his father as a preacher in the Wesleyan connection.

There is still another Methodist society within the bounds of Norwich, viz., at Greeneville, which began about the year 1850, and in the course of a few years reached a membership of more than 100 members. It then declined, and was left without a pastor or a convenient place of worship for six or eight years, until 1864, when the number of members was reduced to twenty. It has since revived; a new house of worship has been built, which was dedicated April 7, 1864. The membership has largely increased, and the society is active and prosperous.

Two preachers of considerable note in the Methodist denomination were natives of Norwich: Rev. Edward Hyde and Rev. B. Hibbard. Mr. Hyde was one of those fervent, heavenly-minded men that seem to have been formed after the model of the apostle John. Mr. Hibbard was an enterprising itinerant during the first thirty years of the present century. A memoir of his ministerial life, written by himself, has been published.

*Universalists.*

The doctrine of universal salvation, or the restitution of all things, was successfully introduced into Norwich between 1816 and 1820, through the persuasive eloquence of Rev. Edward Mitchell and Rev. Hosea Ballou. These preachers made repeated visits to the place, and attracted large audiences.

Mr. Ballou's first sermon (in August, 1817,) was delivered in the church of the First Society, and at its close the Rev. David Austin rose and in his impassioned manner uttered a protest against the doctrine. His remarks were discursive and flowery, but like all Mr. Austin's public addresses, charming to the ear. Mr. Ballou's subsequent discourses in Norwich were delivered at the Landing, in the Methodist chapel upon the wharf bridge.

In 1820, a Universalist society was formed, bearing the title of a "Society of United Christian Friends in the towns of Norwich, Groton, and Preston." The committee that prepared the constitution was composed of one from each of the places named. The preparatory meetings were held in Preston and Poquetannock.

Under the patronage of this society, a church was erected at Norwich, and dedicated July 12, 1822; the services being conducted by the Rev. Edward Mitchell of New York. This edifice stands in a beautiful and conspicuous situation at the corner of Cliff and Main sts., East Chelsea.\*

No church organization at that time took place, but the pulpit was occupied by temporary ministers engaged by the society, the first being the Rev. Charles Hudson, from 1821 to 1823.

A church consisting of eighteen members was organized Feb. 6, 1838, and the society incorporated in 1842, under the name of First Universalist Society in Norwich. About the same time the old church edifice was demolished, and a new one erected on the same site, which has since been much enlarged and improved.

No house of worship in Norwich has a position so open and commanding as this.

This society has had a succession of eight or ten ministers, with short pastorates of two or three years each.†

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\* Mr. Samuel T. Odiorne contributed liberally to the erection of this church, and after his death, in accordance with his expressed wish, a mortgage upon the edifice of \$900, which he held, was canceled. Mr. Odiorne died in 1824.

† For further particulars respecting Universalism in Norwich, see the Historical Sermon of R. O. Williams, pastor, delivered May 5, 1844.



*Summary of Churches.*

4 Congregational.	5 Methodist.
3 Episcopal.	1 Universalist.
3 Baptist.	1 Roman Catholic.

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The Episcopal Society at Yantic have hitherto held their services in a hall belonging to the Factory Company, but they are now looking forward to the erection of a handsome church. The number of families reported in this society is fifty-five. The church is now in charge of Rev. E. L. Whitcome.

Rev. Z. H. Mansfield was rector of this church from 1854 to his decease. He was a native of Norwich, graduated at Trinity College in 1836, and died April 10, 1858, at the family homestead, in the same room where he was born. His age was 47. He was deeply interested in the cause of education, and several years of his life were devoted to the instruction of youth.

The following clergymen of the Episcopal Church are natives of Norwich city :

Rev. Alfred Lee, Bishop of Delaware.

Rev. Thomas H. Vaill, D. D., Bishop of Kansas.

Rev. James A. Bolles, D. D.

Rev. John A. Paddock.

Rev. Benjamin H. Paddock.

Rev. Alfred L. Brewer.

The manufacturing establishments at Greeneville have been the means of alluring foreign laborers to the place. St. Mary's Catholic Church was built many years since for the accommodation of the Irish, the most numerous of the foreign emigrants. It originally seated about 800; it has been twice enlarged, and now holds more than 3000. Rev. Daniel Kelley, pastor.

This society is understood to be engaged in collecting funds and making arrangements for erecting a much larger and more magnificent church in the city.

The large admixture of foreigners in the present population of the city is clearly shown by the registry of marriages. In 1863 the number reported was 184; in 1864, 180.

Both parties American in 1863,	96	In 1864,	89
“ “ Foreigners “	59	“	77
One of the parties foreign,	23	“	10
Colored persons,	6	“	4

## CHAPTER XLIX.

### MANUFACTURES.

THE enterprise of the inhabitants in the line of manufactures has been frequently mentioned in the course of this history. But the subject will here be retraced, and various undertakings chronicled in their order, as far as data for this purpose have been obtained.

Iron-works were established in the parish of New Concord in 1750 by Capt. Joshua Abell and Nehemiah Huntington. They contracted with Robert Martin of Preston, to become the overseer or operator of their works, engaging him *to make and refine Iron into Anconie, to be done workmanlike*, and binding themselves to remunerate him with *100 lbs. of bar iron for every 200 Anconies he shall make*.

Elijah Backus commenced a similar work at Yantic nearly at the same time. These are supposed to have been the first forges erected in New London county. They manufactured blooming and bar iron for anchors, mills, and other uses.

In the year 1766, cutlery as a business made its appearance, and various implements of husbandry, that had before been imported, were manufactured in the town. The Backus iron-works obtained great repute, and during the Revolutionary war all kinds of iron-work necessary for domestic use, and various instruments of warfare, were made and repaired at the Yantic forges.

The same year a pottery for the manufacture of stone-ware was established at Bean Hill, which continued in operation far into the present century, seldom, however, employing more than four or five hands.

The making of linseed oil was commenced at Bean Hill in 1748, by Hezekiah Huntington. In October, 1778, Elijah and Simon Lathrop gave notice in the New London Gazette that they had erected an oil-mill at Norwich Falls, and were ready to exchange a gallon of oil for a bushel of well-cleaned flax-seed.

In 1786, Silas Goodell set up another oil-mill near the falls. This was probably the same mill that in 1791 was owned by Joshua Huntington.

Lathrop's mill was destroyed by fire Nov. 9, 1788. The loss was estimated at \$1500, a considerable quantity of oil and flax-seed being consumed. It was rebuilt the next year.



In these mills flax-seed was used to produce the best kind of oil, but inferior kinds of seed were often substituted. The three mills together produced about 9,000 gallons annually, which sold at three or four shillings per gallon.

During the Revolutionary war, iron-wire and cards were made at the falls, under the supervision of Nathaniel Niles.

Edmund Darrow established at the same period a naillery, which continued in operation nearly to the close of the century.

The business of weaving stockings was begun in 1766, under the patronage of Christopher Leffingwell. William Russell, an Englishman, was the first operator. For many years it was a small concern, limited to two or three looms. But in 1791, Leffingwell had nine looms in operation, producing annually from 1200 to 1500 pair of hose, and employing in the manufacture worsted, cotton, linen, and silk. The silk hose ranged in value from 12s. to 20s. per pair. Gloves and purses were also woven at these mills, the whole business employing only five operatives.

At a later period the business was continued successively by Louis Baral, Leonard Beattie, and William Coxe, all foreigners, and still later by Jeremiah Griffing, a native of New London.

Stocking-looms were not only employed here, but constructed. Before 1790, looms that had been made in Norwich were set up at Hartford and Poughkeepsie,—two at each place. Looms were in operation at that period in New Haven, Litchfield, and Wallingford, and it is not improbable that these also were made in Norwich.

To accommodate his stocking-looms and other utilitarian projects, Col. Leffingwell built, after 1780,\* the range of shops called Leffingwell's row. In 1785, wool-cards were made by James Lincoln in Leffingwell's row.

*Paper.* In the early manufacture of this article in Norwich, Christopher Leffingwell stands pre-eminent. His mill upon the Yantic, near No-man's Acre, was erected in 1766. This was the first paper-mill in Connecticut.† Leffingwell's mill, in a short period, produced various kinds of paper for wrapping, writing, printing, cartridges, and sheathing. The quantity annually turned out was estimated at 1300 reams, the prices varying from 4s. 6d. to 45s. per ream. Ten or twelve hands were em-

\* Not after 1790, as stated ante, page 512, which is an error.

† Not the first in New England. There was one at Milton, Mass., in 1733, as appears from an advertisement of that date in a Boston paper :

“In Milton, near the Paper Mill,  
A new built house to rent :  
Ask of the Printer and you will  
Know further to content.”

ployed.\* At the outset of this undertaking, a small bounty was granted by the government, to continue for three years. It was not renewed.

After the year 1790, Andrew Huntington engaged in the manufacture of paper, and erected a new mill upon the Yantic, either on the site of Leffingwell's old mill, or very near it. Ebenezer Bushnell was for a few years his partner.

*Chocolate Mills.* Christopher Leffingwell was first in this department also. His chocolate-mill was in operation in 1770. Another was erected in 1779 by Simon Lathrop. They were both moved by water-wheels, and could be tended each by a single workman. The chocolate made was of the best quality, and the quantity produced was estimated at 4,000 and 5,000 pounds annually. It sold in considerable quantities at 14*d.* per lb.; retailers asked 18*d.*

*Clocks and Watches.* This business was commenced in 1773 by Thomas Harland, a mechanician of great skill and efficiency. His watches were pronounced equal to the best English importations. In 1790 he had ten or twelve hands in constant employ, and it was stated that he made annually two hundred watches and forty clocks. His price for silver watches varied from £4 10*s.* to £7 10*s.* As at that period watches were far from being common, and it was even a mark of distinction to wear one, Mr. Harland's establishment was a center of the business for a considerable extent of country.

Barzillai Davison, 1775, N. Shipman, Sen., 1789, Eliphaz Hart on the Green by the court-house, and Judah Hart at the Landing, in 1812, though not probably to any great extent manufacturers, were yet "workers in gold and silver," and offered for sale handsome assortments of jewelry and time-keepers.†

Between the years 1773 and 1780, four fulling-mills with clothier's shops and dye-houses went into operation: one in the parish of New Concord; one in Franklin; a third at the falls, "near Starr and Leffingwell's works adjoining the Paper Mill;" and a fourth on Bean Hill.

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\* This paper-mill excited great interest in the community. A private letter written in October, 1767, says of it:

"The Paper-mill at Norwich is plentifully supplied with rags, and has full demand for its paper. Mr. Throop tells me he has viewed it when at work; that it is a curiosity; that they mould and make ready for the Press about ten sheets per minute by the watch."

† The statistical report of Connecticut for 1812 shows that 40 gold watches and 1650 of silver were then owned in the State.



In a statement made of the industrial pursuits of the town in 1791, in addition to several establishments already noticed, are the following items:

Two naileries, or machines for making nails, employing eight or ten hands.

Fifteen blacksmiths, who make annually about 50 dozen scythes, 150 dozen hoes, 50 dozen axes, and other implements for domestic and agricultural use.

Three distilleries.

Two tobacconists.

Two braziers, and a bell-foundry.

*Cotton.* In 1790, Dr. Joshua Lathrop established a cotton-factory in the town-plot. He began with five jennys, one carding-machine, and six looms. This machinery was afterward increased, and a great variety of goods manufactured, probably to the amount of 2000 yards per year while the project was continued. In 1793, the firm was Lathrop & Eells. The following is one of their advertisements, March 19, 1793 :

“Lathrop & Eells have just finished a variety of *Cotton Goods*, consisting of Royal Ribs, Ribclures, Ribdurants, Ribdenims, Ribbets, Zebrays, Satinetts, Satin-Stripes, Satin Cords, Thicksetts, Corduroys, Stockinetts, Dimotys, Feathered Stripes, Birds-Eye, Denims, Jeans, Jeanetts, Fustians, Bed Tickings *that will hold feathers*.

“The above Goods are well finished, and for durability undoubtedly superior to European manufactured. Gentlemen, merchants and others, who feel disposed to encourage home manufactures, are invited to call and see for themselves, and may be assured they shall be supplied as low as they can furnish themselves from any quarter.”

This business could not be made remunerative, and after a trial of eight or ten years was discontinued.\*

The manufacturing spirit had been called into exercise to meet the exigencies of the Revolution. Before that time the country had been dependent upon England for all articles that required combination, capital and machinery for their production. When the intercourse with Europe was renewed, and commerce again brought the lavish results of foreign labor to our shores, the crude manufactures of the country declined, most of the imported articles being cheaper than those made at home. The spinning-wheel and loom still kept their place in families, fulling-mills and carding-machines were patronized, ropes and nails were made; but as a general fact, the work-shops and factories of the country were in Europe. The

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\* The two buildings occupied many years by Lathrop & Eells and Coit & Lathrop, one for a factory, and the other for sales of drugs and merchandize, stood near together on the town street, west of the present residence of Mrs. W. C. Gilman. They were similar in construction; each had a projecting roof, and at one time they were painted blue with white trimmings.

spirit and enterprise of Norwich had been wholly diverted into the channels of commerce, and future prosperity seemed to be expected only from the ocean.

At the commencement of the present century, the paper-mill at the falls was the only establishment of any kind in Norwich worthy the name of a factory.

The Norwich Falls district, now so busy, bustling, and crowded with inhabitants, was then a wild, secluded hamlet, consisting of two or three old mills and the dwelling-house of Elijah Lathrop. Beautiful was the place for all the purposes of romance and lonely meditation,—renowned for echoes and evergreens, the chosen resort of moonlight parties, curious travelers, and wandering lovers,—but the Genius of Manufacture had only marked it for his own; he had not yet erected his standard and marshaled his legions in the valley. In relation to manufactures, and in some respects it would apply to the whole business of the town, this was a period when old things passed away, and all things became new.

*Hemp.* In the year 1803, Nathaniel Howland & Co. erected a building at the falls for hemp-spinning. Mr. Timothy Lester was engaged as machinist; the best of hatched hemp was used, and the warps were spun by a recently improved machine. Looms were soon introduced, and duck and canvas offered for sale in 1804.

The Howlands appear to have been stimulated to this undertaking by a visit from Mr. Baxter, a noted hemp-spinner from Great Britain, who was engaged in introducing the manufacture of cordage and duck, by machinery, into this country. He came to Norwich to survey the situation, and was satisfied with its facilities, but was not himself sufficiently encouraged to remain and conduct the experiment.\*

Col. Howland's mill kept on its way for a few years, employing from twelve to twenty hands, and throwing a considerable quantity of hempen cloth into the market. He was encouraged in his operations by the government. Proffers were made to him to supply the navy upon cash advances, and a small bounty was granted by Congress for every bolt of duck produced. But the business could not withstand the pressure of the times, and was overwhelmed in the general wreck of mercantile affairs, connected with the embargo and other commercial restrictions of that period.

*Manufactures at the Falls.* The rise of manufactures after this period is intimately connected with several prominent individuals who removed to the place from other parts of New England.

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\* Reminiscences of G. S. Howland, of Brooklyn, N. Y. Norwich Jubilee, p. 298.





Eng<sup>d</sup> by A.H. Ritchie.

*Wm. C. Gilman*





Calvin Goddard in 1807.

William C. Gilman in 1816.

William Williams in 1809.

William P. Greene in 1824.

These all in their first coming to Norwich were connected with the manufacturing interest at the Falls. Though not natives, they are wholly identified with the place, and by their enterprise and their liberal and enlightened course as citizens, have contributed largely to its prosperity.

Mr. Goddard was a lawyer and statesman, connected with the manufacturing interest only as a proprietor and patron. Having projected an establishment at the Falls, he purchased in 1809 the old Lathrop house and mill-seats of that district, the saw, grist and oil-mills, with the ancient distillery and tannery lots and privileges, and formed a partnership with William Williams, Sen., of Stonington, and his sons, (Wm. Jr. and Thos. W.,) under the firm of William Williams Jr. & Co., one of the younger partners taking the principal agency in the business. In common parlance, however, the firm was Goddard & Williams.

This company set up the machinery necessary for grinding and bolting "Virginia wheat and Southern corn;" imported their grain, and obtained William Weller, an experienced miller from Pennsylvania, for their foreman. They kept two or three sloops in their employ, sailing to Norfolk, Petersburg, Fredericksburg, and Richmond.

In 1812, they fitted out the schooner *Ann and Mary*, and sent her to Cadiz with flour. This was their only foreign adventure. The war with Great Britain throwing obstacles in the way of trade with the South, the flour business was broken up, and the company turned their attention to the manufacture of cotton cloth.

The Howland duck-factory was changed by this company into a cotton-mill, which began to run in December, 1813, preceding by a few months the cotton-factories at Jewett City and Bozrahville. They began with carding and spinning, giving out the yarn from the factory to be woven in hand-loom, but after three or four years the power-loom was introduced, and they turned out mattresses, nankeens and shirtings in a completed state.

This mill, though of small account in comparison with the gigantic operations of modern times, and by no means a money-making experiment to the proprietors, merits notice as one of the first cotton-mills successfully established in the county, and as leading the way to undertakings in the same line far more extensive and important. The title of this company was changed in 1819 to Williams Manufacturing Co. It continued only a few years in active operation, but its affairs were not settled and the partnership dissolved till 1833, when they sold out to Amos Cobb and others, agents of the Norwich and New York Manufacturing Co.

In May, 1813, William C. Gilman, "late of Boston," purchased a privilege at the Falls, of Goddard & Williams, and in connection with the



Iron and Nail Co. established a naillery, which went immediately into successful operation. In this factory the nails were cut by a newly-invented machine, with great rapidity, and while the novelty lasted, visitors were attracted to the falls to hear the clink of the machine and view the continual dropping of the nails.

The next company that was formed commenced business with promising aspects upon a large capital. This was the Thames Manufacturing Co., incorporated in June, 1823. It consisted of six members, viz., Wm. C. Gilman, Samuel, Henry and John Hubbard, Wm. P. and Benjamin Greene. Five of these partners were Boston men, to whose favorable notice the water privileges that lay unemployed at the falls had been forcibly presented by Mr. Gilman.

This company purchased the naillery and several other water privileges at the falls, and erected a large cotton-factory, preparing for a business of considerable extent and value. The corner-stone of the building was laid with interesting ceremonies, and Judge Goddard delivered an address, welcoming the new company to that secluded seat.

William P. Greene, one of the Boston partners, became a resident in Norwich,\* and for a few years Mr. Greene and William C. Gilman transacted together the business of the company. Mr. Greene then resigned, and Mr. Gilman was afterward the sole agent of the concern.

The Quinebaug Co., for the manufacture of cotton and woollen goods, was chartered in 1826. The mill erected by this company on the Shetucket river was purchased by the Thames Co. before it went into operation, and was considered by its new owners as the most valuable of their possessions. This mill was the beginning of Greenville.

The Thames Co. purchased likewise the mill at Bozrahville, built by Messrs. Dodge and Hyde in 1815, and in their best days had the three mills,—in Bozrah, at the Falls, and on the Shetucket,—in successful operation.

Another company with similar objects and expectations, called the Norwich & New York Manufacturing Co., was incorporated in 1829. Some of the partners belonged also to the Thames Co., but they were distinct concerns. To this new incorporation the Thames Co. sold the Falls mill. This company purchased also the mills and machinery of Huntington and Backus on Bean Hill.

In 1833, a large cotton-mill, two paper-mills, an iron-foundry, nail-factory and rolling-mill were reported in successful operation at the Falls.

But this prosperity was of short duration. Both the Thames Co. and the Norwich and New York Co. became involved in the mercantile dis-

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\* The first purchase made by the Boston Company was Jan. 25, 1823. William P. Greene purchased the Barrell property on Washington street, which he made his home for the remainder of his life, May 17, 1824.



asters that so widely affected the business of the country, and went down in the financial crash of 1837. The two mills belonging to the Thames Co. were purchased nominally by Mr. Gilman,—the mortgages nearly equaling the value,—and conveyed by him to other parties: the Quinebaug mill to Mr. Caliph, and the mill at Bozrah to Mr. James Boorman of New York.

A period of great depression and stagnation of business ensued.

Fresh undertakings of a more enduring nature arose out of these reverses. Two new companies were formed under the auspices of Wm. P. Greene,—the Shetucket Co. and the Norwich Falls Co. Both went into prosperous operation between 1838 and 1842.

The Shetucket Co. purchased the misnamed Quinebaug mill on the Shetucket. The building was burnt down in May, 1842, and the present mill, of far greater capacity, standing on the same spot, is called the Shetucket mill. It is the great cotton-mill of Greeneville.

The Falls Co. purchased the mill at the Falls, which had formerly belonged to the Thames Co. This has since been enlarged to almost three times its former size and power, and has kept on from that time to the present, without any suspension of its activity or check to its prosperity.

These companies were established by Mr. Greene, chiefly upon his own credit, and were kept while he lived under his management and direction. The business has been gradually extending, and for several years each mill has had 15,000 spindles in operation.

The manufacture of paper at the Falls has of late years been connected exclusively with the name of Hubbard. Amos H. Hubbard entered into the business in 1818. Paper was at that time made in the old way; not by machinery, but by hand, sheet by sheet. Mr. Hubbard very soon furnished his establishment with the modern improvements that diminish the amount of manual labor required. In 1830 he successfully introduced Fourdrinier's machine into his factory. This was the first paper-making machine used in Norwich.

The brothers Russell and A. H. Hubbard were in partnership in this business for twenty years, but dissolved in 1857. They had two mills,—the old wooden building erected by Messrs. Huntington and Bushnell in 1790, and a modern one, built of brick and stone, both of which, with various lots, tenements, and water-privileges, were sold by A. H. Hubbard in 1860 to the Falls Company.

Mr. Hubbard then removed his establishment to Greeneville on the Shetucket.

According to the census of 1860, the great cotton-mill at the Falls employed 125 males and 375 females; producing annually six and a half million yards, valued at \$450,000.



The Falls Company has from time to time purchased the various privileges in its neighborhood, and now controls nearly the whole water-power at Yantic Falls, and at the old paper-mill above the falls. The naileries, foundries, pistol-factories, the paper, flour and oil-mills, have all disappeared, their seats and privileges passed over to this company, and their various crafts transferred to other localities. In this valley of the roaring waters, in 1860, Cotton reigned the sole and undisputed king.

This sovereignty has been recently invaded by the occupation of a hitherto unemployed mill-seat near the railroad bridge. Here a large brick building, erected by C. A. Converse in 1864, furnishes accommodation to a grist-mill and the thriving cork-factory of Messrs. J. H. Adams and James E. Learned.

The cork-cutting business is one of the specialties of Norwich; this being the place where an ingenious machine for transforming sheets of bark into well-shaped corks was invented and set in operation, and where the business is prosecuted with a success that promises to make it one of the permanent industrial pursuits of the town.

The corks used in this country had been mostly imported from Europe, where they were all made by hand. Vast quantities were required to supply the market, and a machine that would abridge the labor and cheapen the article was a desideratum. This is furnished by the machines invented and patented by the brothers Crocker of Norwich.

William R. Crocker, the first inventor, after many experiments, brought his machine into successful operation, and procured a patent for it, bearing the date of Oct. 30, 1855. This machine produced from twenty to thirty finished corks per minute, turning them out in better condition than those made by hand. In 1859 the inventor went to Europe, accompanied by a younger brother, to dispose of rights in his patent. On their return in the steamer Hungarian, they both perished in the wreck of that vessel on the coast of Newfoundland, Feb. 15, 1860.

But the business of cork-cutting, commenced by them in Norwich, has been continued by Messrs. Barnes & Spalding, the proprietors of their patented machine.

Another machine of different structure, but for the same purpose, was invented by a third brother, John D. Crocker, and patented in 1862. This patent is the one employed in the factory at Yantic Falls.

*Uncas Mill.* In the early part of the century, at Bean Hill, in a turn of the Yantic and on both sides of it, we find a grist-mill of ancient date, the fulling-mill and carding-machine of Erastus Huntington and Eber Backus, the stone-ware factory of Armstrong & Wentworth, and the machine-shop of James Burnham. Mr. Burnham constructed carding-machines, looms, and other kinds of machinery, but died on the island of Madeira in 1813.



The establishment of Huntington & Backus was purchased in 1828 for \$9,000, by a company organized that year and called the Norwich Manufacturing Co. This company established a woolen-mill on the premises, since known as the Uncas Woolen Mill. The ownership has since been several times changed. In 1859, F. B. Loomis, proprietor, the census reported the annual produce 150,000 yards of doeskins, valued at \$175,000. Mr. Loomis sold out in 1860 to Wm. Elting & Co. The Elting Woolen Company has since been organized with a capital of \$150,000.

Another woolen-mill, at a lower point on the river in Norwich-Town, was run for several years by Peter Lanman. The site is now occupied by a mill of larger size and a group of neat tenements built by A. T. Sturtevant.

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### *Yantic.*

The village of Yantic lies in the western part of the town, close upon the borders of Bozrah and Franklin. At this point, just where the roads from Colchester and Windham meet and run together, a mill-dam and pond, a saw-mill, grist-mill, and carding-machine, with the usual gearing and machinery, had been gradually gathered into a group, and in the early part of the present century were owned by Uriah Tracy.

These improvements were purchased in different parcels, from 1818 to 1822, by John and George Tisdale, who added a factory and a stone dwelling-house to the premises, and began the manufacture of cotton cloth. The Tisdales were agents, or trustees, in this business, of Robert R. Baker, a native of Scotland, who had spent some time in Norwich, and seems to have formed the design of investing his capital in the business of the place, and enrolling himself as a regular inhabitant. After a few years, Mr. Barker, while traveling, it is said, in the western part of New York, suddenly disappeared, and his fate was never ascertained. The Yantic mill was subsequently sold, to clear off its mortgages and indebtedness, and purchased by Capt. Erastus Williams, who greatly enlarged the original building, and devoted it wholly to the manufacture of woolen goods. E. Winslow Williams, only son of Capt. Erastus Williams, is the present proprietor.

The aspect of the country in this neighborhood has been softened by the improvements of modern times. It was naturally a wild and frowning district, dark with impending woods, and intersected by a turbulent stream. The village consists at the present day of the Williams flannel factory, with its various tenements, appurtenances, and surroundings; a fair proportion of mechanics and shops for merchandise, a group of private houses, a post-office, a school-house, an Episcopal organization called Grace Chapel, and about 300 inhabitants.

The census of 1860 reported 110 persons employed in the mill,—75 males and 35 females, and the annual value of products \$150,000. This mill, with all its machinery, stock, and engines, and an adjoining house that accommodated eight families, was destroyed by fire, May 26, 1865. The older part of the mill had stood for nearly fifty years, and the flames performed their work with great facility, lighting up the hills and woods like an amphitheatre, and startling the village with showers of flaming cinders. The loss, though very heavy, served only as a stimulus to more enlarged enterprise. The corner-stone of a new structure, far more capacious than the former, to be built of stone, four stories high, with towers and wings, and furnished with all the mechanical conveniences and safeguards invented by modern science, was laid Aug. 16th, less than three months after the conflagration. This mill is designed for twelve sets of machinery.

The village of Yantic furnished an honorable roll of volunteers in the war for the Union; and among them, one,—Capt. John McCall,—who poured out his life on the banks of James river, and by his patriotism, valor, and heroic death, has left a name for his native hills to cherish.

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#### *Bozrahville.*

Pursuing our course along the Yantic, but still keeping within the nine-miles-square, we meet with the manufacturing villages of Bozrahville and Fitchville, both within the present town of Bozrah.

Bozrahville is one of the oldest manufacturing establishments in the county of New London. It originated with the Bozrah Manufacturing Co., which was formed in 1814 by Frederick DePeyster, Jonathan Little and others of New York, and David L. Dodge, then a resident of Norwich.\* The capital came from New York, but Mr. Dodge suggested and managed the undertaking. Under his direction a stone factory was built for the manufacture of cotton and woolen goods, several hundred spindles and looms set to work, and a thriving village planted in a waste place. Erastus Hyde of Bean Hill was also a partner and agent in this work.

In consequence of the great influx of European commodities, which caused the decline of the manufacturing interest all over New England, the Bozrahville Co. was broken up in 1824, and the property passed into the possession of the Thames Co., but the mill was kept in operation with only the suspension of a few months.

In 1837 it was sold by the Thames Co. to James Boorman and others

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\* "Five of us together (says Mr. Dodge) purchased a site for a cotton manufactory in the north-west corner of Bozrah, in the valley of the Yantic, six miles from Norwich town, obtained a liberal charter," &c. Autobiography of D. L. Dodge.



of New York, who, under the title of the Kent Manufacturing Co.,\* are the present proprietors. B. F. Tompkins, one of the partners, has had the chief agency of the company from its beginning. This mill is devoted to the production of cotton goods.

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*Fitchville.*

Of the village of Fitchville, its mill, its church, and its founder, we have heretofore spoken. Since that notice was written, (page 438,) the plans and labors of Mr. Fitch have been brought to a sudden close. He died Oct. 30, 1865, aged seventy-eight years and a half.

Few persons have had a more eventful life than Mr. Asa Fitch. As a youth, he was pallid and slender, often prostrated by sickness, and subject to distressing turns of the asthma,—a difficulty that clung to him through life. Sustained by his mental energy, he tried in succession, study at an academy in Lebanon, a clerkship in Norwich, and a mechanical trade, but broke down after each experiment. At the age of eighteen, in the hope of invigorating his constitution by a sea-voyage, he embarked as a passenger in the brig *Walter*, Capt. Brown, of New Haven, bound on a fishing and trading voyage to Green Island, Newfoundland, and Europe.

He landed from this vessel at Lisbon, just before the news reached that city of the battle of Trafalgar and the death of Lord Nelson, that is, in October, 1805. Finding the climate of southern Europe favorable to his health, he went from Lisbon to Alicant, and at first obtained employment in the office of the American consul. He remained nearly ten years at Alicant, occupied in mercantile affairs; coming home on a short visit in 1809, to establish some commercial relations, and gradually acquiring the reputation of a substantial merchant.

In 1814 he removed to Marseilles, and there established a commission and banking house that soon became known and recognized as a link in the chain of commerce between France and the United States. It was patronized by the French Government at the outset. While at Alicant, Mr. Fitch had accommodated several of the royal exiles in certain monetary affairs, and now that they had returned to power, they displayed a commendable appreciation of his courtesy. He was welcomed to the best society in France, and often entertained at his table in Marseilles, nobles, statesmen and literary men of the first reputation in the country.

Being joined by his brother, Douglas Fitch, and his nephew, William D. Lee, the house took the firm of Fitch, Brothers & Co. Vessels from most of the large ports in the United States were consigned to this house. They were also agents of the U. S. Navy, furnishing supplies and making

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\* So called in remembrance of Kent County, England, of which the chief partners are natives.

payments to the government vessels in the Mediterranean. They executed orders from America for the purchase of French goods, and had correspondents in the United States to receive consignments of French produce from the merchants and manufacturers in France. In this round of business, important interests were involved.

In 1828, Mr. Fitch left Marseilles and returned to America, in order to take charge of the affairs of the house on this side of the Atlantic. On the voyage he came near death through the entire prostration caused by continued sea-sickness, and never afterwards could be induced to cross the ocean. In New York, his office, with the sign of Fitch & Co., was in Exchange street. Here he embarked in a large real estate investment, purchasing several lots on Broadway, New and Exchange streets, upon which he subsequently erected stores, the rents of which were like a bank of wealth to the proprietor.

Withdrawing gradually from personal attention to the details of business, Mr. Fitch at length retired to his native place, and for the last twenty-five years has been assiduously occupied in the laborious improvement of a naturally rough and forbidding country district. Sitting down by the side of the old iron-works where his father and his elder brother had wrought, he built a mansion-house, a cotton-mill, a grist-mill, a church, a village, and purchased farm after farm, until his domain could be measured by miles, expending in these various plans and operations six or seven hundred thousand dollars.

A characteristic of Mr. Fitch was his ceaseless activity. In body and mind he was alike energetic and alert. It was owing to this, and to his rigid attention to diet and regimen, that he lived so long, bearing up under complicated infirmities, and accomplishing so much actual labor. He was wonderful in planning, constructing and laying out work. The lives of such persons are full of action and incident; they make changes and improvements; they are benefactors to their race, but undertaking too much, they do not finish as they go, and often leave their most cherished projects incomplete.

Mr. Fitch was unmarried; of nine brothers and sisters, he was the only one that entered into no matrimonial connection.

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#### *Greeneville.*

The Water Power Company was incorporated in 1828, "for building a dam and canal in order to bring the waters of the Shetucket river into manufacturing use." The sum of \$43,000 was first subscribed by twenty-seven persons, Wm. P. Greene being the largest subscriber. The trustees were Calvin Goddard, Jedidiah Perkins, and George Perkins.



Mr. Greene had previously purchased the land in various parcels of different individuals: on the Quinebaug above the union with the Shetucket, and on the latter river from Sachem's Plain downwards, nearly three miles in extent, on either side of the river, in Norwich and Preston.

The west side of the river was an old Reynolds farm,—a grant to John Reynolds, one of the first proprietors of the town. It was here, just over the river on the Preston side, that the younger John Reynolds and Josiah Rockwell were killed by the Indians in 1676. A portion of this land was still held as inherited estate, and was purchased by Mr. Greene of Joseph Reynolds of North Kingston, R. I. The Lewis farm, bought by Mr. Greene in June, 1826, had been owned by a Reynolds until 1815.\* On the Preston side, the Holden, Spicer, Truman and other lots had been procured. These were all conveyed to the company.

The Shetucket dam was built of solid masonry, and a canal dug forty-five feet wide, nine feet deep, and seven-eighths of a mile in extent. The village of Greeneville was laid out by this company, and the land sold and leased on advantageous terms. Large factories for the manufacture of cotton goods, paper, flannel and carpets sprang up with great celerity, and this lonely river side started almost at once into a populous and thriving village.

Various important changes have since taken place in the business of Greeneville. Factories for the production of certain articles have been established, and after a season of prosperity have declined and been relinquished. But other industrial pursuits have been ready to take their place, and the population and resources of the village have steadily increased.

The Shetucket mill has been already mentioned. It is now the only cotton-mill at Greeneville. It employs 150 males and 300 females. Annual product valued at \$400,000. A dyeing establishment is connected with the mill, and the goods produced are mostly colored or stripes. About eighty acres of land belong to this mill.

Greeneville has been particularly noted for the manufacture of paper.

The paper-mill of A. H. Hubbard, removed from the Falls in 1860, employs about fifty hands, and is devoted to the production of colored paper.

The paper-mill of the Chelsea Manufacturing Co., at Greeneville, produces that description of paper which is used for books and newspapers. In 1860, when this mill was in operation to its full extent, it was claimed to be the largest paper-making establishment, not only in the United States, but the largest in the world.

The principal building is 375 feet in length, and several detached

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\* The house on this farm was the only family residence which then occupied the seat of the present Greeneville, which has a population of 3000 or more.

buildings for various operations are connected with the works. There are twenty-six engines for grinding and cleansing the rags, and six for converting the pulp into paper.

According to the census of 1860, it employed 75 males and 105 females, and the annual value of product was estimated at \$475,000. A large proportion of the operatives worked twelve hours on and twelve hours off, that is, from 12 A. M. to 12 P. M., or vice versa, and the mill was kept in operation from Monday, 1 o'clock A. M., to Saturday, 11 o'clock P. M.

Messrs. David Smith of Norwich, and J. C. Rives, former publisher of the Congressional Globe at Washington, D. C., were for many years prominent proprietors of the Chelsea paper-mill, and under their control it achieved its greatest results. It was sold in 1862 to E. G. Bartow.\* Other changes have since taken place in the ownership, and the mill has declined from its former flourishing condition. Laden with incumbrances and under assignment, it was sold at auction in March, 1865, and the equity of redemption purchased at a price very far below the original cost of the works.

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#### *Occom Company.*

The capabilities of the lower valley of the Quinebaug and Shetucket rivers, as they approach tide-water, for manufacturing pursuits, have long been known and acknowledged, but they have hitherto been only partially developed and improved. The tradition is apparently authentic, that the elder Mr. Slater made an exploring visit to this region about the year 1805, and was satisfied with its water-power and adaptability to manufacturing purposes, but meeting with no cordial appreciation or readiness of co-operation from the merchants and capitalists, he turned back to Rhode Island, and fixed upon Slaterville as the site of the second cotton-mill in America. Norwich was then expending her energies in commerce, and had given but little attention to those sources of wealth that were treasured among her hills and along her water-courses.

Of late years, the demands of the manufacturing interest have stimulated enterprise, and led to the development of a large amount of unemployed water-power within our bounds. Business, population and machinery are gradually winding their way, guided by noisy streams, into the secluded haunts of the neighborhood, and eating out the heart of our most picturesque scenery. But this is a cause for congratulation, and not for complaint. The dash of falling waters, the songs of birds, and the roar of winds among the trees of the forest, may be more pleasing to the ear and imagination than the thunder and clang of looms and wheels, yet

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\* Mr. Rives and Mr. Bartow both died during the year 1864.



it is a part of the mission of objects of taste to yield gracefully to those imperative interests that provide occupation for industry, markets for farmers, and comfortable homes for the multitude.

The Wequonuck Company\* was formed in 1845, with a small capital of \$8000, by Charles Bliss and others, for the purpose of occupying what has been called the Bliss privilege on the Shetucket river, not far from Eagleville. The rights thus obtained were not used by the company, and the charter lay dormant for nearly twenty years. A great difficulty, which long obstructed operations in this district, has been removed by the passage of a flowage law by the Legislature in 1864.

The Occom Company, on a much larger scale than the Wequonuck, was organized Oct. 14, 1864, chiefly through the exertions of Messrs. Moses Pierce and L. W. Carroll. The sum of \$100,000 was subscribed by twenty individuals, and the charter authorizes an increase of capital to a million.

To this company the Wequonuck Co. assigned all their rights and privileges. This, with other purchases, gave them about 800 acres of land in Norwich and Lisbon, and the control of the whole water-power—44 feet—between the Greeneville dam and Sprague. These privileges have been divided into two sections, with the center or seat of water-power in each, two miles apart.

The upper privilege of fourteen feet is about two miles from Sprague. Here a dam of solid stone-work has been built, 800 feet long, connected with a rolling-way of 300 feet. Canals are begun each side of the river, and two extensive woolen-mills, with all the necessary appendages of factory villages, are in progress.

The mill nearest the dam,—that of Joseph H. Converse & Son,—is built of stone, three stories high, and designed for six sets of machinery. The other, also of stone, to be four stories high, with seven sets of machinery, is owned by a company of which R. G. Hooper is the general agent.

The lower privilege of the Occom Co.,—30 feet,—has been sold, with 550 acres of land, to Messrs. Taft & Co. of Providence, who design to make it the seat of a large cotton-factory.

When these prospective works are completed, it will make a cordon of mills and mill-villages in the eastern and southern part of Norwich, some of them large enough for independent towns, five in number, and two miles apart, viz.:

Sprague,  
Occom,  
Tafts,

Greeneville,  
Norwich Falls.

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\* Wequonuck, (abbreviated by the first settlers to Quonuck,) is the Indian name for the low land on the Shetucket, above and below the junction of the Quinebaug.

*Fire-Arms.*

The war of the rebellion, while it depressed some of the industrial interests of the place, gave a great impetus to the manufacture of fire-arms. Attempts had been several times made to establish large factories for pistol-making in Norwich.

The most considerable undertaking of this kind was that of Messrs. Allen & Thurber, (Ethan Allen and Charles Thurber,) who set up a pistol-factory at the Falls in 1842. They made revolving pistols, weighing about a pound and a half each, firing six balls in less than six seconds. After a few years this company removed their establishment, with its operatives and their families, to Worcester.

In 1853, Smith & Weston established a rifle and pistol factory upon Central Wharf, and in 1854 secured a patent for a volcanic repeating pistol, but finding themselves restricted in point of room for their operations, they removed to New Haven, where a company was formed to pursue the business on a larger scale.

The Bacon Manufacturing Co. next made its appearance in the city, adding a considerable number of mechanics to the population. The pistols of this company were the only fire-arms made in Norwich when the war commenced; but mechanical enterprise soon took a sudden turn in that direction.

In January, 1862, James D. Mowry contracted to furnish the Government with 30,000 rifle muskets of the latest Springfield construction. The barrels were made at Cole & Walker's, (Franklin street,) the locks by C. B. Rogers & Co. of West Chelsea, and other pieces at Mowry's factory in Greeneville.

The Norwich Arms Co. was stimulated into existence by the war, and soon grew to gigantic proportions, filling successive contracts and furnishing large supplies of musketry for the Government. This company had two establishments: one on Franklin street, (occupying the premises of Horace Walker,) where the barrels and bayonets were made,) and the other near the Shetucket, for the department of stocks and locks. They made, besides the Springfield musket, a new kind of improved rifle, the invention of Messrs. Armstrong & Taylor of Augusta, Ky. In this process each gun is composed of forty-nine parts, each part accurately fitting its place in any other of the guns. Any barrel will fill any stock; any screw will enter any hole for which it is designed; and out of the heaps of finished parts a musket can be put together with great ease and celerity. The completed instrument weighs ten pounds. This company had a wonderful accumulation of machinery for its various operations, and hundreds of artizans were employed, regulating the machines and attending upon them as they threw out their millions of pieces with rapidity and



precision.\* Heavy reports like thunder came from the proving-room, where the barrels were tested. They were loaded with heavy charges, and fired by a train, discharging the balls into banks of earth prepared to receive them.

The cessation of the war brought this establishment to a sudden close. The company failed, and the usual results of a great failure succeeded. The machinery stopped, the workmen were disbanded, the property was sacrificed at auction, and this great manufactory of warlike instruments, that at one time occupied a large space in the public interest, now belongs wholly to the history of the past.

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*Miscellaneous Notices.*

The industrial pursuits of Norwich are continually increasing in number, variety, and value. They are too numerous and variable to be circumstantially described. We can only briefly notice a few which belong to the history of the past, or in which some new and interesting principle is involved.

Abner T. Pearce was at one time extensively engaged in the manufacturing business in Norwich. He had a large foundry and car-factory in the place, and was also concerned in a car-factory near the eastern terminus of the Erie Railroad. In the year 1853, he suddenly failed and absconded. After assigning his property and leaving the place, it was ascertained that he had issued spurious paper to a very large amount, and had pursued his business by means of forged signatures for several years. He fled to California, and afterward to South America, where, according to report, he died in 1864.

Christopher C. Brand in 1852 obtained a patent for a newly-invented whaling-gun and bomb-lance. A musket three feet long discharges a gun twelve feet in length, which strikes and soon explodes. A spacious brick building to accommodate these works was erected on Franklin street in 1860.

The manufacture of sewing-machines of the Howe patent was commenced by Greenman & True, on Central Wharf, in 1860. This establishment brought a considerable increase of population to the city.

A steam flouring mill, having a fifty-horse-power, was established on Central Wharf by Capt. W. W. Coit in 1855.

The Union Machine Co., Franklin street, and Caleb B. Rogers & Co., machinists, in West Chelsea, are companies organized on the joint-stock principle, with each a capital of \$200,000.

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\* An interesting description of this Norwich Armory, with illustrations, was published in Harper's Magazine for March, 1864.

At the southern extremity of the city we find the rolling-mill and other works of the Messrs Mitchell, bearing the company name of the Thames Iron Works. At Greeneville, near the eastern border of the city, is the Norwich Bleaching and Calendering Co., which has been many years in operation, employing many hands, but is now enlarging its works and preparing for a business of greater extent.

Between these, the City and the Falls are studded with manufacturing establishments of greater or less extent, far too numerous to be described. They spread also into the town-plot.

In this connection we must not fail to notice a stock company which has its seat on the western border of the town. Though as yet of no productive value, as a curious item of history, it must not be overlooked.

The Waweekus Hill Mining Company was first formed in 1851, and has since been organized with a capital stated at \$500,000; Jesse Fillmore of Providence, President. This company is based upon the supposition that the rocks where it is located contain gold, silver and nickel, and a lease for 100 years of about 100 acres of land, covering the location, has been obtained.

The idea of the metalliferous quality of the rocks was first suggested by G. M. Roberts, a young man whose attention was arrested to the subject by what seemed to him a smell of sulphur when the rock was broken. Reuben Safford, the agent of the company, has dwelt for a considerable time alone upon the premises, and has made repeated essays in digging and exploring the bed of rocks, where the mine is supposed to be situated. The smelting and reclaiming process has not been initiated, and no pure metal has yet been discovered or produced.



## CHAPTER L.

### MAYORS OF THE CITY.

NORWICH was one of the five cities incorporated by the Legislature of Connecticut in May, 1784. It included Bean Hill, the Falls, the Town-plot, and Chelsea. The Mayor was at first chosen for an indefinite term. The succession is as follows :

1. Benjamin Huntington, LL. D. Elected July, 1784; in office twelve years; resigned in 1796.

This first Mayor of the City was one of the most honored and honorable men of that period,—a statesman of incorruptible integrity, conspicuous for his patriotic service in the town, state, and general government. He was a State Counsellor during the Revolutionary war; member of the Continental Congress in 1784, and of the Constitutional Congress in 1789, and in 1793 was appointed Judge of the Superior Court of Connecticut. In every station he was popular and faithful. His family was an attractive social center, but the members all removed to other scenes, several of his children gathering families around them at Rome, N.Y. Judge Huntington himself removed thither in 1796, and there died Oct. 16, 1800. His remains were brought to Norwich and laid by those of his wife, who was a daughter of Col. Jabez Huntington of Windham. The degree of LL. D. was conferred upon him by Yale College, where he graduated in 1761.

2. John McLaran Breed. Elected in April, 1796; two years in office. He died May 31, 1798, aged 50.

Mr. Breed was a distinguished lawyer, noted for enterprise, benevolence, and public spirit. In improvements of the city, made in the way of bridges, streets, wharves, and buildings, he took a leading part. His death in the prime of usefulness and activity was lamented as a public loss.

3. Elisha Hyde. Elected in June, 1798; in office fifteen years; died Dec. 16, 1813, in the 63d year of his age.

Mayor Hyde was a lawyer of good repute, universally popular in his native town for his urbanity, genial temperament, and overflowing benevolence of heart. His wife, who was a daughter of Amos Hallam of New London, long survived her husband, and died at Black Rock, N. Y., Aug. 26, 1841, aged 87. They had two daughters,—the youngest, Ann Maria, died soon after her father, at the age of 24. Of this young person, lovely and beloved, a memoir, written by the companion of her youth,—Miss Huntley, afterward Mrs. Sigourney,—was published. The eldest daughter, Sarah, born in 1776, married Capt. Z. P. Burnham, and is now (1866) residing with her son at Newstead, Erie Co., N. Y. She has been fifty-six years a widow.

4. Calvin Goddard. Elected in February, 1814; in office seventeen years; resigned in 1831; died May 2, 1842, aged nearly 74 years.

Judge Goddard was a native of Shrewsbury, Mass., and a graduate of Dartmouth College. He settled at Plainfield in the practice of the law in 1791, and served as member of Congress for two sessions, from 1801 to 1805. He removed to Norwich in 1807, where he purchased for his residence the Dunham house, which included in its grounds the burial-place of the Mohegan sachems. In 1815, he was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court. He was a man of honorable character and high attainments. His wife was a daughter of Rev. Levi Hart of Preston, and a grand-daughter of Dr. Bellamy. Charles, oldest son of Calvin Goddard, removed to Zanesville, Ohio, in 1817.

Since 1831, the Mayor has been elected annually.

5. James Lanman. Elected June 6, 1831; in office three years.

Mr. Lanman was born in Norwich, June 14, 1769; graduated at Yale College in 1788, and chose the law for his profession, in which he soon acquired distinguished rank, and successively filled various important public offices. He was Senator in Congress from 1819 to 1825, and for three years Judge of the Supreme Court of Connecticut. He died Aug. 7, 1841, aged 72. He was the oldest son of the first Peter Lanman of Norwich. His mother was Sarah, daughter of Samuel Coit of Preston.

6. Francis Asher Perkins: 1834; one year.

Mr. Perkins entered early upon a mercantile life, and experienced its usual vicissitudes of alternate success and disappointment. He was at one period a broker in Boston, and during the latter years of his life, successively cashier of the Norwich Bank and treasurer of the Savings Society. Through life he was devoted to the interests of religion and humanity. Upright in conduct, with a genial disposition and well-culti-



vated mind, he kept on fresh and serene to the last, a beloved officer in the church, a diligent student and acceptable teacher of Bible truth. He died March 27, 1863, aged 78. His father, Hezekiah Perkins, died in 1822. His mother, Sarah Fitch, was a grand-daughter of Joseph Fitch, the eighth son of the revered founder of the Norwich Church.

Mr. Perkins was the last Mayor over the old city, whose limits were coincident with those of the town.

7. Charles W. Rockwell. Elected in 1835; in office three years; chosen again in 1846.

8. Charles James Lanman; 1838, one year.

Mr. Lanman is a son of Senator Lanman, fifth Mayor of the city. He resided a few years in Norwich, but has since removed.

9. William C. Gilman;\* 1839, one year.

Mr. Gilman was a native of Exeter, N. H., and was first initiated into mercantile pursuits in Boston, but nearly thirty years of the most active and energetic portion of his life were spent in Norwich.

As a man of business he was acute in perceiving capabilities and ardent in the presentation of them to others; always prompt and persevering in promoting plans and pursuits calculated to develop the resources or advance the moral and religious interests of the community.

The period of Mr. Gilman's residence in Norwich was marked not only by the stimulus given to manufactures at the Falls and on the Shetucket, and the increase of business in general, but by fresh interest in the cause of temperance, improvements in churches, and the establishment of Sabbath Schools. All these undertakings were deeply indebted not only to his forecast, but to his advocacy and personal service.

Mr. Gilman was also a man of taste and research; one who delighted in collecting memorials of the past, exploring the antiquities of the country, and commemorating the old heroic Red men of the land.

The failure of the large manufacturing companies with which he had been connected, led the way to his removal from Norwich about the year 1845. The later years of his life were spent in New York, where he died June 6, 1863. His remains were brought to Norwich for interment.

10. John Breed, 1840; in office two years, and elected again in 1845.

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\* This was an exciting and warmly contested election,—made so by political partisanship. Meetings were held on the 3d, 10th and 14th days of June, and successive ballotings tried each day without resulting in a choice. The meeting was then adjourned to the 24th, when the election was decided by 216 votes out of 378.



11. William P. Greene, 1842; one year.

Mr. Greene was a native of Boston, but an inhabitant of Norwich for more than forty years. He was the second son of Gardiner and Elizabeth (Hubbard) Greene, and born Sept. 7, 1795. He graduated at Harvard College in 1814, and afterward studied law, but his health not being equal to the requirements of the legal profession, he removed in 1824 to Norwich, and engaged at once in business, as a partner and agent of the Thames Manufacturing Co., which had invested a large capital in the purchase of mill privileges at the Falls.

In this city he soon acquired and retained during life the esteem and respect of the community. He was an energetic and a large-hearted man; literary in his tastes, but with profound sagacity in financial and business concerns. These qualities were united with a pure life and an entire absence of ostentation. As a beautiful result of his unobtrusive life and liberal disposition, he seemed to have no enemies. Slander never made him its mark, and his name was never mentioned with disrespect.

He was never possessed of robust health, and therefore seldom able to give his personal services in aid of public measures, but all charitable and noble undertakings having for their object the welfare of man and the honor of God were sure of his liberal aid and cordial sympathy.

In 1825 he was chosen the first President of the Thames Bank, and held the office for sixteen years. With this exception, and that of the single year in which he was Mayor of the city, he steadfastly declined, on account of his health, all appointments to public office.

He died June 18, 1864, aged 68. Seldom has the death of a citizen excited in the place so deep an interest and such profound regret. It was a loss that was felt in the circles of business and of public improvement: in the departments of education and philanthropy.

12. Gurdon Chapman. Elected 1843; in office two years.

Mr. Chapman died Jan. 18, 1859, aged 52. He was a native of Preston,—a self-made man, by his own talent and industry acquiring property and influence.

John Breed; re-elected 1845, one year.

Mr. Breed was a son of the second Mayor of the city. For more than half a century he has been known as a prominent merchant of Norwich, engaged chiefly in the hardware line, but often entering into other departments of business. The sign of "*John Breed & Co.*," representing the partnership of John Breed and his brother Simeon, was first displayed upon the store in Water street, where his father and grandfather had transacted business, the day that war was declared against Great Britain, June 19, 1812. Mr. Breed entered into several subsequent partnerships,



but whether the firm was Trumbull & Breed, John & James Breed, or Breed, Prentice & Co., the old sign of *John Breed & Co.* has been displayed in conjunction with its successor, for more than fifty-three years, until it is regarded as one of the antiquities of the place.

Mr. Breed had himself become so identified with the city, that he seemed a part of it,—always present at its public meetings, always interested in the passing discussion, and always firm and downright in his positions. He was a man of strong peculiarities and of impulsive character, with great originality and independence, carrying much of the vivacity of youth into the decline of life. Tall, with white locks, and wearing a white hat, every child knew him, and no face or form was more familiar to the inhabitants at large.

His name is commemorated in Breed Hall, which was erected by him with the design of furnishing a convenient hall for lectures, concerts, and other large assemblies, and thus supplying a desideratum which the interests of the city required. This building was completed in February, 1860, Mr. Breed died suddenly, Dec. 3, 1865, in his 75th year.

Charles W. Rockwell, re-elected 1846; one year.

Mr. Rockwell is a native of the town, but a large portion of his mature life has been spent in business at the South and West. While a resident here,—from 1830 to 1850,—he entered heartily into the duties of citizenship, and was distinguished for liberality and public spirit. All enterprises calculated to advance the interests of the community in business, mental culture, physical comfort, and religious improvement, found in him a cordial advocate and patron.

He was one of the original projectors of the Norwich and Worcester railroad; forecasting its importance and embarking in its construction with an interest that merged his financial resources in the undertaking. This railroad, which has proved so beneficial to Norwich, was constructed at a period of such pecuniary pressure in the country, that those who engaged early in the work suffered severely in their private fortunes before it was completed.

It is not often the case in this world, that they who expend their zeal and energies upon a great work, are the persons that reap the most benefit from it. They plan, and execute, and toil on with unceasing ardor to complete an undertaking, and then are swept aside, or pass away, while others enter into their labors, and enjoy that which costs them nothing. There is nothing discouraging in this; it rather ennobles measures which otherwise would be but sordid,—teaching the generous mind to enter upon its beneficial task, whether personal advantage accrue from it or not; to do good, and pursue noble ends by noble means, without too solicitously expecting a reward, or indulging regret if it be withheld.

13. John Dunham, 1847 ; in office two years.
14. Wm. A. Buckingham, 1849 ; in office two years.
15. La Fayette S. Foster, 1851 ; in office two years.
16. Erastus Williams, 1853 ; in office two years.
17. Wm. L. Brewer, 1855 ; in office one year.

Wm. A. Buckingham, re-elected 1856 ; in office two years.

18. Amos W. Prentice, 1858 ;\* in office two years.
19. James S. Carew, 1860 ; in office two years.
20. James Lloyd Greene, 1862 ; still in office.

This is the third instance in which the father and son have held the office ; the present Mayor being the son of the 11th.

Of these twenty presiding officers, ten are yet on the stage of life, and the last eight are residents of the city, (January, 1866.)

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#### *LL. D.*

This honorary degree has been conferred upon four citizens of Norwich.

Governor Samuel Huntington received it from the two colleges of Dartmouth and Yale.

Benjamin Huntington, first Mayor of the City, from Yale.

Henry Strong, also from Yale, "in testimony of his professional eminence."

La Fayette S. Foster, from Brown University.

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Among the members of the legal profession, claimed by the town as natives, Henry Strong stands pre-eminent. As a lawyer and jurist, he was exact in detail, and yet profound and comprehensive ; acute in discerning the truth amid complicated statements, and persistent in his exertions to clear up a doubtful point. It may justly be said that he imparted dignity and respectability to the profession, preserving in his legal business as counselor, arbiter, and advocate, the same unyielding integrity that marked his private life. Native ability, untiring industry, and adherence to principle, harmoniously wrought together, formed his character.

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\* This was an exciting election. On the first day, 714 ballots were cast ; for A. W. Prentice, 351. As this was not a majority, no choice was made. At the second meeting, 932 votes were polled ; for Prentice, 492, which decided the election in his favor.





Henry Wang





His disposition and habits were so retiring that his reputation was scarcely commensurate with his worth. He refused uniformly to be considered a candidate for public office, otherwise the community would have assigned to him gladly the responsibilities and honors of high official trust.

Mr. Strong graduated at Yale College in 1806, was for two years tutor in the institution, and at a subsequent period was invited to become a member of the faculty as professor of law, but declined the appointment. He died Nov. 12, 1852.

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*Presidential Electors from Norwich.*

Joshua Huntington, 1805,—5th presidential election; Thomas Jefferson elected: opposition candidate, C. C. Pinckney.

Calvin Goddard, 1813,—7th presidential election; James Madison elected: opposition candidate, DeWitt Clinton.

Charles W. Rockwell, 1845,—15th presidential election; James K. Polk elected: opposition candidate, Henry Clay.

William A. Buckingham, 1857,—18th presidential election; James Buchanan elected; opposition candidate, J. C. Fremont.

In these four elections Connecticut gave her whole vote for the minority candidate.

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*Members of Congress who were residents and citizens of Norwich, and Representatives of this part of Connecticut.*

1. Gov. Samuel Huntington, President of the Continental Congress.
2. Judge Benjamin Huntington, of the Continental Congress, and also a member under the Constitution from 1789 to 1791.
3. Calvin Goddard, M. C. from 1801 to 1805; afterward Judge of the Superior Court of Connecticut.
4. General Ebenezer Huntington, an officer of the Revolution,—twice elected to Congress, in 1810 and again in 1817.
5. James Lanman; U. S. Senator for six years, from 1819 to 1825.
6. Jabez W. Huntington, M. C. from 1829 to 1834; U. S. Senator from 1840 to his death,—six years. Between these two periods of Congressional duty, he served as Judge of the Supreme Court of Errors and of the Superior Court of Connecticut. He died Nov. 1, 1847, aged 59. Senator Huntington was widely known and appreciated for his prudence, sagacity and decision as a counselor and judge.
7. John A. Rockwell, M. C. from 1845 to 1849. Mr. Rockwell was for many years a successful practitioner in the Court of Claims at Wash-

ington, and in connection with this branch of public business, digested and published a work on Spanish and Mexican law. In political life he was more of a national man than a partizan; a true lover of his country; warmly interested in its past history, honoring its founders, and firmly believing in its high mission to expand the boundaries of knowledge and free government. He died at Washington, Feb. 10, 1861, aged 59. His remains were interred at Norwich.

8. La Fayette S. Foster, U. S. Senator since 1855. Mr. Foster is a native of Franklin, born Nov. 22, 1806, and a graduate of Brown University. As a lawyer and political orator, he has acquired an honorable reputation, and is particularly noted for the tact, decision and impartiality that are necessary to make a good presiding officer in large assemblies. This has been manifested in his public life, as Mayor of the City, chairman of many political meetings, Speaker of the Connecticut House of Representatives, and President pro tem. of the U. S. Senate. To this last office he was chosen at the first session of the 39th Congress, March 6, 1865.

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The following members of Congress from other States are natives of Norwich, in its present limits:

Phineas L. Tracy, from New York.	William Woodbridge, from Mich.
Albert H. Tracy, “ “	Charles Miner, “ Penn.
Erastus Corning, “ “	Thomas L. Harris, “ Ill.
Abel Huntington, “ “	

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*Decease of Persons connected with the Legal Profession.*

1. J. G. W. Trumbull, a native of Lebanon, settled at Norwich in 1815; died Sept. 5, 1852, aged 65.

2. Roswell Morgan, died July 12, 1853, aged 77.

3. James Stedman, a native of Hampton, graduated at Yale in 1801, and remained as tutor for two years; studied law with Theodore Dwight, and entered into practice at Norwich in 1806. He was for many years Clerk of the County Court. In private life he was social and hospitable; in his profession a wise and safe counselor, and in the church a revered and beloved officer. He died May 18, 1856, aged 76.

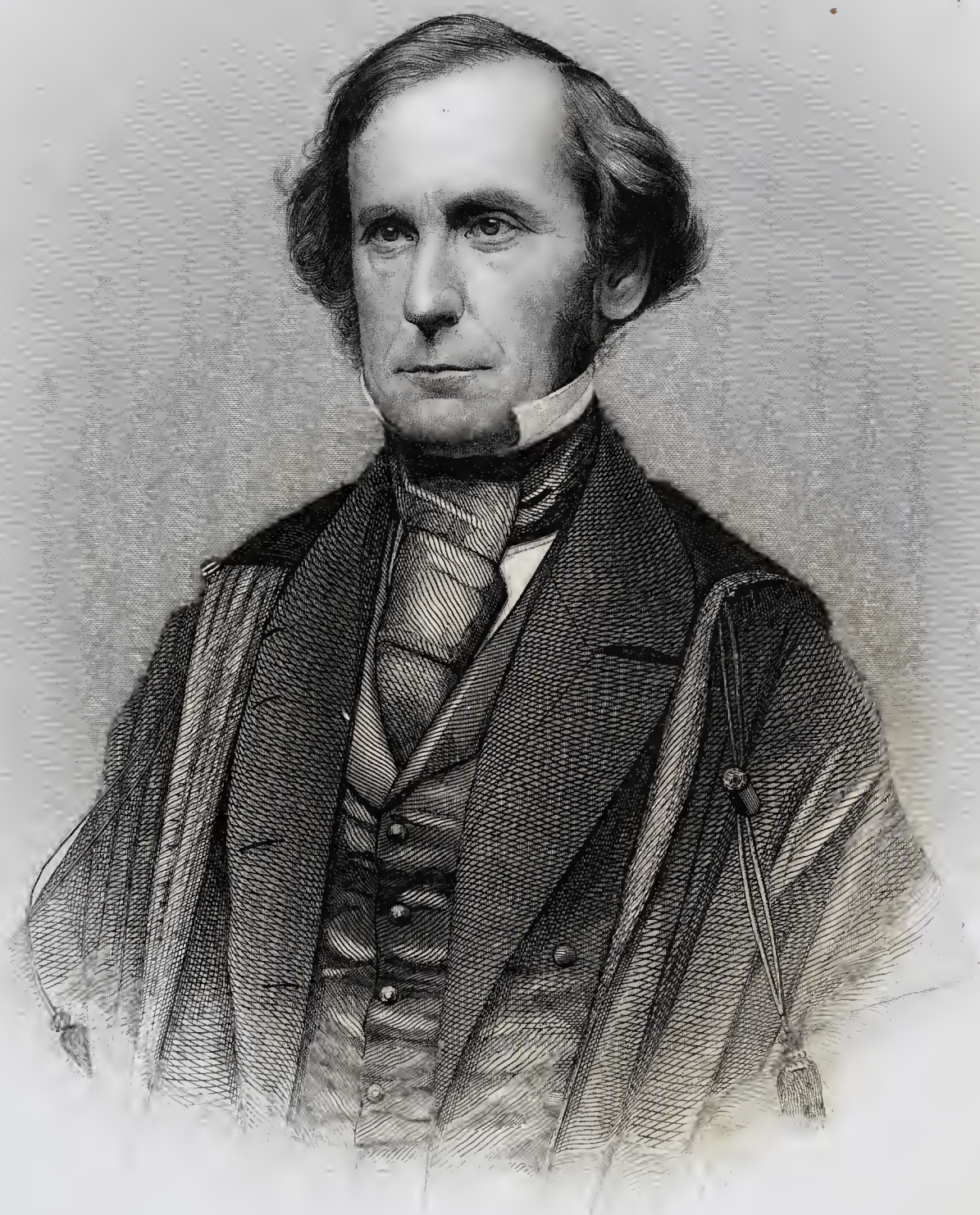
4. George Bliss, County Sheriff, died at the old homestead of his ancestors, in the town-plot, Sept. 12, 1857, aged 53.

5. Asa Child, d. May 11, 1858, aged 59.

6. George B. Ripley, Judge of the Probate Court, d. July 9, 1858.

7. Levi H. Goddard, d. May 9, 1862, aged 53.





Engraved by J. B. B. from a daguerotype by J. B. B.

*La Fayette S. Foster*

NEW YORK: J. B. B. 1850.





8. Edmund Perkins, d. Aug. 2, 1865, aged 46.

9. Joseph Williams, d. Nov. 28, 1865, in the 87th year of his age.

Mr. Williams graduated at Yale College in 1798, in a class of twenty-one, and for several of the last years of his life his name was the only one in the catalogue of the class against which the ominous asterisk was not placed. He studied law in New Haven, and was in the office and family of the Hon. Simeon Baldwin at the time of the sudden decease of his father, Gen. Joseph Williams, in October, 1800. He soon entered into practice in his native town, and his father having left a young family and an embarrassed estate, he was not only brother, but father, friend and guardian to the remainder of the household, administering to their welfare and success in life with duteous affection and persistent generosity. During the sixty years that he had an office in the city, he held a great variety of public offices, and discharged the duties of each with fidelity and discretion. In 1813-14, an exciting period of the war with Great Britain, Joseph Williams and Nathaniel Shipman were the calm, judicious men that the town sent to represent them in the Legislature. Mr. Williams was for a series of years the State agent for the Mohegans, and in his retentive memory various interesting incidents, gathered in his intercourse with the tribe, were treasured.

He was justice of the peace forty years; alderman of the city twenty-two years; the first secretary and treasurer of the Fire Insurance Company, and held the office nearly fifty years, beginning with 1803; cashier of the Merchants' Bank upwards of forty years, and at the time of his death, president of the Norwich Savings Society, of which he was one of the original corporators.

He was a member of the Congregational Church for thirty-five years, and in his conduct and conversation a consistent Christian.\*

Of the living members of the Norwich bar, the oldest on the list is Samuel C. Morgan. He is a native of Lisbon; commenced practice in Jewett City in 1816, but has been for nearly thirty years a resident in Norwich.

The whole number in the town, enrolled as attorneys at the present date, is nearly thirty. Those who have been in practice for thirty years or more, are

George Perkins,  
La Fayette S. Foster,

John T. Adams,  
John T. Wait.

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\* Mr. Williams took a lively interest in the proposals of the author of this work to prepare a complete history of the town, and when the earlier pages went to the press, was still on the stage of life. It is a source of painful regret that many aged citizens from whose reminiscences so many interesting facts have been derived, should have passed away without sharing in the pleasure of seeing the finished work.



*Physicians of Norwich.*

*John Olmstead*, (or Holmstead,) one of the first company of settlers from Saybrook in 1660 ; died in 1686.

*Samuel Abell*, oldest son of Caleb and Margaret (Post) Abell ; he died Nov. 21, 1731, aged 59.

*Solomon Tracy*, a youth at the time of the settlement ; d. July 2, 1732, aged about 80.

*Caleb Bushnell*, a native of the town ; d. Feb. 18, 1725, aged 46.

*Samuel Law*, a transient resident, 1718–20.

*Robert Bell*, from Ipswich ; father-in-law of Capt. John Fillmore ; died Aug. 23, 1727.

*David Hartshorn*, from Reading, Mass., about 1700 ; settled at the West Farms ; d. Nov. 3, 1738, aged 82.

*Elijah Hartshorn*, also of the West Farms, practising in 1780 and onward ; d. in 1839, aged 85.

*John Sabin*, of West Farms ; d. March 2, 1742, aged 46.

*Thomas Worden*, d. 1759 ; he had probably been in practice more than thirty years.

*Christopher Huntington*, son of that Christopher who was the first-born son of Norwich. He married for his first wife the daughter of Dr. Caleb Abell, and settled in the parish of New Concord. That he was a physician we infer from the title of *Doctor* which was attached to his name in 1718.

*Christopher Huntington*, son of the above, born in 1719, died in 1800. A third Dr. Christopher Huntington, son of the last named, though a regular and highly esteemed physician, does not properly belong to our list, as he practised in Bozrah after it became a distinct town.

*Joseph Perkins*, of Newent Society ; graduated at Yale College in 1727, and in 1729 was styled *the town doctor*. He was distinguished for surgical skill as well as for successful treatment of diseases. He died July 7, 1794, aged 90.

*Joseph Perkins*, oldest son of the above, born in 1733, was also a practising physician, studying with his father, but not taking a degree. He was the father of Major Joseph Perkins of Norwich, and died at the age of 37.

*Benjamin Wheat*, from Cambridge, Mass., settled in Norwich as a physician about 1730 ; died in 1758, aged 49.

*John Barker*, of Norwich West Farms, forty years in practice, and first President of the County Medical Society. He died June 13, 1791, aged 62. A contemporary notice gives him credit for a “peculiar readiness to communicate for general information whatever his penetrating genius, persevering observation and long experience had brought to view.”



*Samuel H. Barker*, of West Farms; d. June 11, 1794, in the 30th year of his age.

“If worth and merit from death’s jaws could save,  
Barker, our friend, had always shunned the grave.”

[Obituary verses by one of his pupils.]

*Theophilus Rogers*, a son of Capt. Ezekiel Rogers of Lynn, Mass., removed to Norwich about 1720; d. Sept. 29, 1753, aged 54.

*Ezekiel Rogers*, oldest son of the above, was prepared for the medical profession, but died at the age of 22.

*Theophilus Rogers, Jr.*, like his brother, acquired his professional knowledge by study and practice with his father. His name stands first on the list of eleven physicians who in 1773 applied to the Legislature for permission to organize a State Medical Society. Dr. Rogers was afterwards President of the New London County Medical Association. He was highly esteemed, not only as a physician, but for public spirit and social amenity. He was nearly fifty years in practice, and died Sept. 29, 1801, aged 70.

*Elisha Tracy*, graduated at Yale College in 1738, and studied for his profession with the senior Dr. Rogers. He was eminently skillful in medicine and surgery, and one of the earliest advocates for inoculation as a preventive of small pox. He died May 1, 1783, aged 71.

*Philemon Tracy*, son to the above; fifty-five years in practice, an able physician, faithful in his vocation, respected and beloved in the community. He was distinguished for his skill in the treatment of chronic diseases; discriminating, thorough and attentive in all his professional duties. He died April 26, 1837, aged 80.

*Elihu Marvin*, a native of Lyme; student and son-in-law of the second Dr. Theophilus Rogers. He had been a lieutenant in the Revolutionary war, and was appointed brigadier-general of militia in 1793. He died of yellow fever in 1798, aged 45.

*Seth Marvin*, a young physician who studied and practised in Norwich, but died at sea in the ship *Hope* in 1799.

*Jonathan Marsh*, practised in Norwich; joined the expedition against Crown Point as a surgeon in 1755; died in 1766.

*Jonathan Marsh, Jr.*, noted for surgical skill, and particularly in the line of bone-setting. He died April 17, 1798, aged 44.

*Elisha Lord*, nephew of the Rev. Dr. Lord of the First Church. He served in the army on the Canadian frontier as a surgeon; died March 16, 1768, aged 40.

*Doctor Lodemā*, born in Norwich, March 16, 1759; died in Canterbury, Feb. 21, 1855, nearly 96 years of age.

*Richard Tozor*, a student with Dr. Benjamin Wheat. He joined the Louisburg expedition in 1745, as surgeon’s mate, and never returned.

*Dominie Touzain.* On the grave-stone of Col. John Durkee is the following memorial :

“ In memory of Doct<sup>r</sup> Dominie Touzain who was lost in a hurricane in March 1782 in ye 31<sup>st</sup> year of his age.”

*Benjamin Moore* practiced a few years at the Landing. In 1793, he advertised that he was about to leave Norwich. He died in Demarara, not long afterward.

*Azor, son of Eliphalet Carew*, a short time in practice, but went abroad for his health, and died on his passage from London to New York, Jan. 18, 1800.

*Philip Turner*, student and son-in-law of Dr. Elisha Tracy, surgeon-general of the Eastern department in the Revolutionary war. In the line of surgery he stood at the head of the medical faculty in this country. The credit has been awarded to him of being the first surgeon in America that performed the operation of tying the femoral artery. He died at New York in 1815, aged 75.

*John Turner*, son of the above, a man of genial disposition and genuine benevolence ; as a physician, skillful and popular. He died May 7, 1837, aged 73.

*George W. Trott* studied with Dr. Tracy, and was licensed by the Connecticut Medical Society. His card, offering his services as a physician at Norwich, was dated Jan. 18, 1803. He soon removed to Wilkesbarre, Penn.

*Benjamin Butler* studied with Dr. Turner, practiced a short time in Norwich, and then removed to New York.

*Charles Worthington*, in the year 1800, offered his services as a physician, advertising that he had been licensed by the Medical Society.

*Lemuel Boswell*, for many years the principal practicing physician in Chelsea ; died Aug. 18, 1804, aged 69.

*Thomas B. Boswell*, died Feb. 3, 1829, aged 49.

*George Tisdale*, began practice at Norwich in June, 1799, and died in November, 1824, aged 51.

*Nathan Tisdale*, died July 15, 1830, aged 58. These were brothers, and natives of Lebanon.\*

*Rufus Spalding*, removed from Nantucket to Norwich-town in 1812 ; died Aug. 22, 1830, aged 70.

*Alfred E. Perkins*, son of Major Joseph Perkins, graduated at Yale College in 1830 ; acquired the degree of M. D. in 1833, but died Oct. 29, 1834, before entering on professional duty. He was a young man of high attainments and fine promise. In his will he bequeathed to the Library

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\* George H., only son of Dr. Nathan Tisdale, emigrated to Alabama in 1837, and there died at Selma, Sept. 22, 1865, aged 51.



of Yale College a fund of \$10,000, the interest to be used in the purchase of books.\*

*Chauncey Burgess*, died Aug. 8, 1850, aged 56.

*John P. Fuller*, died May 15, 1861, of scarlet fever. Dr. Fuller was originally from Providence, but had practiced, before removing to Norwich, in Salem, Ct. He had a wide-extended popularity, as a skillful surgeon and successful practitioner, and was often summoned to neighboring towns for operation or advice in critical cases.

At the present time there are more than twenty surgeons and physicians, practitioners of the different systems, in the town. Richard P. Tracy is the veteran of the list, having been nearly fifty years in practice.

Worthington Hooker, a native of Springfield, Mass., began to practice in Norwich in 1829. He removed to New Haven in 1852, and has since been connected with the Medical Department of Yale College.

William P. Eaton, a native of Plainfield, has been for forty-six years a resident in Norwich,—Nov. 19, 1819, being the date of his settlement in the place as a medical practitioner. He withdrew from professional practice after a few years, and has since been engaged in the drug business; taking always an active interest in the public improvements, discussions, and municipal affairs of the city.

Elijah Dyer, originally from Canterbury, has been for nearly forty years a resident of the town, and in constant practice.

Ralph Farnsworth, a native of Groton, Mass., began his professional career in Norwich in 1826.

Ashbel B. Haile, from Otsego Co., N. Y., about the year 1840.

These are the only physicians in town whose practice extends over twenty years.

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### *Druggists.*

The following persons, bearing the title of Doctor, were probably druggists, and not practicing physicians:

Dr. McClure, of Norwich, 1791.

Dr. Joseph Coit, who died Dec. 18, 1799.

Dr. Gurdon Lathrop, son of Azariah, 1800; died 1828.

Dr. Joseph Thomas, died April 20, 1840, aged 68.

The most noted druggists of the place, in modern days, whose names now belong to the history of the past, are the following:

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\* This was the third considerable donation to Yale College from citizens of Norwich. Major James Fitch endowed it in its infancy with 637 acres of land in the town of Killingly, and Dr. Daniel Lathrop in 1782 left a legacy to the College of £500.

Dwight Ripley, died Nov. 18, 1835, aged 71.\*

Samuel Tyler, d. Sept., 1854, aged 80 years and 20 days.

William S. Tyler, d. Sept. 29, 1864, aged 57.

Charles Lee, d. Oct. 26, 1865, aged 75.

Dr. Lee, of the firm of Lee & Osgood, entered into the drug business at Norwich in 1831. He was brother to Dr. Samuel Lee of Windham, the original proprietor of the Windham *Lee's Pills*, (as distinguished from the pills of Dr. S. H. P. Lee of New London,) and succeeded him in making and vending this popular specific.†

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The 59th Annual Meeting of the State Medical Society was held at Norwich, May 9, 1855, by invitation of the City Medical Association. It had never before held its anniversary except at one of the State capitals. Dr. Jonathan Knight of New Haven was present, who 47 years before had been the principal of the Proprietors' School in Norwich.

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#### *Business Sketches and Current Events.*

After the Revolution, the growth of Chelsea in buildings, population, and commerce, was rapid, and the tide of prosperity continued without any serious check to the close of the century.

*Thomas Mumford* was a thriving merchant, living in handsome style, and was extensively known as a gentleman and a patriot. He died in 1799.

*Joseph Howland* was in business at Norwich for nearly forty years. He came to the place about the year 1770; married Lydia, daughter of Capt. William Coit, May 27, 1772, and was made a freeman in 1773. He was afterward of the firm of Howland & Coit, Norwich, Howland & Allyn, New London, and at a later period, in connection with his son, Joseph Howland, Jr., and Jesse Brown, Jr., established the firm of Howland, Brown & Co. This concern owned and fitted out the ship *Charlotte*, and

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\* J. D. Ripley, a grandson of Dr. Dwight Ripley, perished in the burning of the steamer *Commonwealth* at Groton, Ct., Dec. 29, 1865. He was engaged in medical studies when the war commenced, and enlisted in the 18th C. V. as Hospital Steward, but often during his three years' service performed the duties of Assistant Surgeon, particularly at Winchester, where he was left by the enemy in charge of the severely wounded. On retiring from the army, he resumed the study of his profession, and had been attending medical lectures in New York, practicing also in the wards of the hospital, and was returning home to spend the holidays, when he met with his untimely fate,—being, as it was supposed, suffocated in his berth.

† Before Dr. Lee removed to Norwich, he had been in business at Willimantic, and was largely instrumental in establishing a Congregational church in that village, of which church he was the first deacon, and superintendent of its first Sabbath School.



some fifteen or twenty brigs, schooners and sloops; often having on hand live stock sufficient for three or four deck-loads to the West Indies, and inboard freight to a proportionate extent. This partnership was dissolved in May, 1806.

Mr. Howland built the house on Union street, which was afterward for forty years the residence of Dr. Dwight Ripley and his family. Having relinquished business and settled his affairs in Norwich, he removed to New York, where his children, both sons and daughters, had previously settled, and died in that city, March 11, 1836, aged 86.\*

Capt. John Howland, the elder brother of Joseph, was originally connected with him in maritime affairs, and was also a practical ship-master, sailing chiefly from New York, and making both West India and European voyages. He was at Liverpool in 1785, in command of the brig *Mary*, and died at sea in 1789, aged forty. After his death, his son, Nathaniel Howland, born at New York in 1775, came to reside with his relatives in Norwich, and was introduced by them into the mercantile and shipping business. In the course of a few years he had a rope-walk in West Chelsea, a duck manufactory at the Falls, and a wharf and store at the Landing. He held also the military rank of colonel, but removed about the year 1814 to Brooklyn, New York, where he died July 7th, 1839.

*Gen. Ebenezer Huntington*, though a resident in the town-plot, was in business at the Landing more than thirty years, occupying a store in Shetucket street, nearly opposite the bridge.

*Gen. Jedidiah Huntington*, also an up-town resident, transacted business in Shetucket street, at the *blue store*,† the former premises of Trumbull, Fitch & Trumbull, and was here engaged in merchandise, when the Revolutionary war commenced. Most of the commissary business of Col. Joshua Huntington was executed at this stand. It was afterwards occupied for the cutlery and hardware business, by Huntington & Glover, the firm changing to Jabez Huntington & Co.

*Thomas Coit* was a merchant in Norwich for about fifteen years. He was burnt out in 1793, but most of his goods were saved, and he continued in trade till 1798, when he sold out and removed to Canterbury.

*Jacob and John De Witt*, father and son, together and in succession, were in business for more than seventy years.

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\* His oldest son, Joseph Howland, Jr., died young and unmarried. His other sons, Samuel S. and Gardiner G., went to New York at an early age, and in the course of a few years rose to the highest rank as merchants and bankers, founding a large commercial house from which they retired with overflowing wealth in 1837, leaving the business to their sons and nephews. It is now the firm of Howland & Aspinwall.

† Fanciful colors for mercantile buildings seem to have been at one time in vogue. One of the old stores in Chelsea was painted red with yellow trimmings.



The name of *Peter Lanman*, father and son, was conspicuous in mercantile affairs for nearly the same length of time.\*

The *Breeds*, father, son, and grandsons, have pursued the same business at the same hardware and shipping store in Water street, for more than a hundred years. The building has been enlarged, but the main part remains nearly the same as when built by Gershom Breed in 1764.†

The *Tyler* drug-store on Water street was built in 1784, and has been occupied by three successive generations of the family. The firm was at first, "Tyler & Tyler," the partners being Samuel Tyler of Norwich, and Pascal P. Tyler of Brooklyn, Conn. Col. Tyler had served seven years with Dr. Joshua Lathrop, and was familiar with those old recipes which the elder Dr. Lathrop had obtained in England, in the efficacy of which there was a strong traditionary faith.

*Joseph Williams* and *Lynde McCurdy*, active merchants and esteemed citizens, were taken from their spheres of usefulness in the prime of life. The former died Oct. 23, 1800, at the age of 47; the latter in 1803, aged 48. Mr. McCurdy was a native of Lyme but his mature years were all spent in Norwich, where he was distinguished for generosity and public spirit. His epitaph says, "Short were the admonitions of sickness, and suddenly was the grave his house."‡

In the early part of the present century, Hezekiah Perkins, Andrew and Joseph Perkins, Farewell and Benjamin Coit, and Erastus Coit, were prominent as citizens and merchants. Woodbridge & Snow was a well-known firm. Samuel Rudd, Henry Gordon, Devotion & Storrs, Felix A. Huntington & Co., were dealers both in dry goods and groceries.

The brief partnership of *Raymond & Dodge* (Joshua Raymond and David L. Dodge) was broken up by Mr. Raymond's decease in 1806.

In 1805, we meet with the firm of *Pliny Brewer & Co.* The partner in this instance was Joseph Otis, to whom Norwich is indebted for her public library.

Of citizens now living, a few that have been long in business, or prominently engaged in public affairs, may with propriety be noticed.

Giles Buckingham, from Saybrook, removed to Norwich in 1808, and for many years was an active dealer in dry goods; the firm changing in 1815 to G. Buckingham & Co. The elder partner died Nov. 7, 1831,

\* The second Peter Lanman died at Norwich, Dec. 29, 1854, aged 83. Commodore Joseph Lanman of the U. S. Navy is one of his sons.

† The river formerly ran directly in the rear of these buildings on Water st., where the railway connection track is now laid.

‡ The residence of Mr. McCurdy, still known by his name, is on the pitch of the hill overlooking Main st. It was built in 1786, by Nathaniel Backus for his son Erastus, who died in 1791. It was then purchased by Mr. McCurdy.





Eng<sup>d</sup> by Geo<sup>r</sup> Perine N York

HELEN LEE WILKINSON





aged 53. The other partner, *Hamlin B. Buckingham*, is the present librarian of the Otis Library.

Relationship to these merchants brought *William A. Buckingham* to Norwich in 1825. He was at first in their employ, but soon became a successful merchant on his own account, and has since been extensively engaged in various manufactures. The town has been greatly indebted to his example and influence.

He was chosen Governor of Connecticut in 1858, and has been annually re-elected by continually increasing majorities. This position is not the result of political management, or party compromise, but may be considered as a popular tribute to his high character for judgment and integrity. He is a practical man, connected with the manufacturing and industrial interests of the State; a friend to the poor and unfortunate, and of unwearied industry in doing good.

Governor Buckingham is a direct descendant, in the sixth generation, from Rev. Thomas Buckingham of Saybrook, and his wife, Hester Hosmer of Hartford, who were married in 1666. He was born in Lebanon, May 28, 1804, and has two brothers, Rev. Samuel Buckingham of Springfield, and J. Matson Buckingham of Norwich.

Advertisements of the foundry of *D. N. Bentley*, "at the west end of the wharf bridge," begin in 1805, when he was 21 years of age. The connection of Mr. Bentley with the rise and establishment of the Methodist Society in Norwich is noticed elsewhere in this history.

*William Williams*, a native of Stonington, born March 12, 1788, became a resident of Norwich in 1809. For several years he was the active partner in the firm of Goddard & Williams, flour merchants and manufacturers at the Falls, and has since been engaged in other commercial pursuits. In 1829, though still residing in Norwich, he entered into the whaling business at New London, and founded the house of Williams & Barns, a successful whaling company, still pursuing the same business. In this firm his place was afterward supplied by his son, Thomas W. Williams, 2d, (born at Norwich in 1815,) who accumulated a handsome property in the business, but died suddenly at New London, Sept. 12, 1855.

General Williams is well known as a warm friend to the religious, benevolent and educational institutions of the country. But with the schools and school-houses of New London County he is particularly familiar; visiting them often, dispensing good advice, and scattering the printed page. Another specialty for which he is noted, is his devotion to the interests of the Mohegan church; having for many years attended its services, and aided its ministrations with perseverance and self-denial.

The Golden Wedding of General and Mrs. H. P. Williams was commemorated March 13, 1862. It is only within a few years that it has become customary to celebrate as a festival, the fiftieth anniversary of

married life, and this was the first instance of the kind in Norwich. Three others have occurred since, celebrated in a similar manner, with festive and religious ceremonies, by the following parties :

Rev. Comfort D. Fillmore, of the Methodist Church, and Mrs. Annice Fillmore, at the house of R. H. Fillmore on Bean Hill, March 16, 1863.

Dea. Isaac and Mrs. Mary H. Bromley, Sept. 7, 1864.

Humphrey Almy and lady, at the residence of their son, William T. Almy, Jan. 15, 1866.

In connection with General and Mrs. Williams, we may here advert to one of the sterling men of former days, with whom they were connected by filial ties. Capt. Bela Peck was a man of independent and commanding character ; his frame large and powerful, and in his youth remarkably athletic and of indomitable courage. In his physical and mental characteristics he was the impersonation of those qualities which make a staunch and fearless officer, whether civil or military ; and these were exhibited in the various duties he performed as captain of the old matross company in his younger days, and deputy sheriff for a long course of years.

He gained a large property by diligence and assiduity, preserved his interest in public affairs to extreme old age, lived to be the oldest man in the parish, took his daily drive alone in his chaise till he was past ninety, and died at last without any experience of disease, like one falling asleep, in the ninety-third year of his age, Dec. 15, 1850. He was one of those men whose images remain long in the memory, associated with the scenes and events of former days.

The firm of *Dyer & Ripley*, druggists, first appeared in 1793. Benjamin Dyer and Dwight Ripley, both from Windham, were the partners ; but the connection was soon dissolved. Dr. Ripley was in business forty-five years. Ripley & Waldo, (Dwight Ripley and Horace Waldo,) dealers in drugs, dry-goods and groceries, were the first merchants in Norwich to advance out of the old time-sanctioned forms of retail, and sell goods in larger packages by wholesale.

This example was followed in 1823 by the fictitious house of *Willis Gray & Co.*, a name assumed by the partners, Calvin Tyler\* and Joseph Backus. This firm launched at once into a business of considerable extent, and pursued it successfully while the partnership lasted, which was just four years to a day, closing in February, 1827, at which time Backus & Norton,†

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\* Capt. Tyler was a man of good business talent. Besides engaging in trade, he started a regular line of packets to New York, running one of them himself. The price of a passage in this line was \$4 and found.

† The premises of Willis Gray & Co. are now occupied by the Norton Brothers. Mr. H. B. Norton has been a resident in Norwich since 1824, and was but 19 years of age when he formed the partnership with Mr. Backus.





Eng<sup>d</sup> by Geo. E. Perine & Co. N.Y.

Very truly Yrs  
L. Perkins







(Joseph Backus and Henry B. Norton,) entered into partnership and succeeded to the business of the former house.

March 9, 1809, is the date of an advertisement in the *Norwich Courier* of merchandise for sale by *George L. Perkins*. This denotes the first entrance into business of the present treasurer of the *Norwich & Worcester Railroad*. Col. Perkins, when quite a young man, was one of the originators of the Sabbath School enterprise in Norwich. During the war of 1812, he held the office of paymaster, with the rank of brigademajor in the U. S. Army, and has occupied other positions of trust and honor.

The book-store of *Thomas Robinson* has been one of the standing accommodations of Norwich for forty-eight years. Mr. Robinson is a native of Hartwick, Otsego Co., N. Y., and began business at Norwich in 1818.

*Gurdon A. Jones* has been a dealer in shoes and leather at the Landing for more than forty years.

Capt. *Wm. W. Coit* is a native of New London, but an inhabitant of Norwich since 1819, contributing in various departments to the business and improvement of the city.

*Benjamin Huntington*, the present treasurer of the *Norwich Savings Society*, engaged in business on his own account in the Town Plot in 1824, and in 1825 was chosen Town Clerk.

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Norwich, at the period of which we now treat,—the end of the first quarter of the present century,—was in a state of depression and inactivity. It had not recovered from the blow given to its commerce by the war of 1812. Many failures had taken place; people were involved in debt, and everything was beginning to look old and dilapidated. Since then all things seem to have become new. The advance of the city in population and industrial pursuits may receive illustration from the following fact. In 1824, the population of the town was about 4000. Of these only one person was known to be of Irish birth. This was Edward Murphy, at that time the single *Exile of Erin* within the town limits. The Irish population alone now amounts to 4000.

In these last forty years, new and flourishing houses have been established, new branches of business undertaken, new and honorable names enrolled among the inhabitants. But on these new themes we can not dwell. It is the special province of history to speak of persons and things that have passed away. Yet the present glides so rapidly into the past that it is difficult to know where to draw the line.

Since this work has been in the press, several natives of Norwich, of more than ordinary prominence, have been struck from the ranks of the living. Among these is a feminine name of wide celebrity, that has been repeatedly mentioned in this work, and which now claims from us the mournful duty of this additional record.

Lydia Huntley Sigourney, born at Norwich, Sept. 1, 1791; died at Hartford, June 10, 1865.

The writings of this lady, beginning with her first volume of "Moral Pieces, in Prose and Verse," published in 1815, have been for fifty years quietly diffusing an influence in favor of the true, the good and the beautiful, in literature, morals and religion. To the young especially they have been of incalculable benefit. The large number of Mrs. Sigourney's works, their high moral tone, and the good they have accomplished, have gained for her a name and reputation that will long endure.

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A New London County Agricultural Society was formed in the year 1818, which continued in operation five or six years, holding its Annual Fair alternately at Norwich and New London. Oct. 30, 1822, the fair was held at Norwich on the Town Green. A book auction was connected with it, and an address by Mr. McCurdy of Lyme. This association declined, and after a few years became extinct.

A new County Society was organized April 12, 1854, in the Town Hall at Norwich. Rev. William Clift of Stonington was chosen President, and Dr. D. F. Gulliver Corresponding and Recording Secretary. The first fair was held at Norwich in September, 1855, at which time M. Paulin, the aeronaut, enlivened the show with a balloon ascension, remaining an hour in the air, and descending at South Kingston, R. I. The next year, the same experimenter came down in Griswold, at the end of twenty minutes.

At the third fair, in 1857, the balloon of Messrs. Allen & King rose 10,000 feet, and after an hour's flight, descended in Canterbury, seventeen miles north of the place of departure.

This society still continues in operation, and holds its annual fair in Norwich.

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At the Paris Exhibition, or World's Fair, in 1855, three natives of Norwich were present as representatives of three provinces: Daniel C. Gilman from Connecticut, Charles H. Rockwell from California, and T. Sterry Hunt from Canada.

T. S. Hunt is a grandson of Consider Sterry, who has resided for many years in Canada. In 1856, he was honored at Paris with the rank of "Chevalier d'Honor," as a recognition of his merits as a scientific chemist.



*Yantic Cemetery.*

This rural burying-place was consecrated July 12, 1844, all denominations of Christians in the city uniting in the services. The address was delivered by Dr. Bond of the Second Congregational Church, and the consecrating prayer made by Mr. Paddock, the Episcopal Rector. Two original hymns were sung, composed by Mr. Charles Thurber.

This cemetery is the property of the city, and has been much enlarged since the first purchase. It contains many beautiful and interesting monuments, and has recently acquired a new and permanent interest by gathering within its bounds the hallowed remains of many of the victims of the late war. Several brave soldiers who fell upon distant battle-fields, and others who perished in dreary prisons, have been brought home, and now rest in peace beneath these quiet shades.

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*The Wauregan Hotel.*

This building was erected by an association of gentlemen, with the design of providing a public house that should afford ample accommodation and be an ornament to the city. On the spot where it stands, and in the immediate vicinity, some of the earliest dwelling-houses at the Landing were built. Several wooden buildings, denizens of the spot for more than a century, and their foundations sunk below the level of the sidewalks, were demolished to make room for the new structure, which was commenced in April, 1853.

It is built of brick, five stories high, with exterior trimmings of free-stone, and iron balconies, and cost \$50,000, exclusive of the basement.

The situation is unfavorable to a noble and impressive appearance. Higher ground and more room are necessary to give effect to so large a building. It was opened Feb. 20, 1855.

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*Family Meetings.*

Sept. 13, 1853, a meeting was held at Norwich, of the descendants of Elder William Brewster. It was decided to erect a monument to the memory of Jonathan Brewster and his wife at Brewster's Neck, and to prepare a memoir of the venerated ancestor of the family, Elder William Brewster. The execution of these tasks was committed to Rev. Ashbel Steele of Washington, D. C., by whose instrumentality the meeting was convened. Both objects have since been accomplished. The monument, a shaft of granite ten feet high, was erected at Brewster's Neck in 1855, and a memoir, entitled "Chief of the Pilgrims," published by Mr. Steele in 1857.

Sept. 3, 1857, a family gathering of the descendants of Christopher and Simon Huntington was held in Norwich Town. From 300 to 500 descendants from other places assembled to interchange greetings, to trace relationship, and rehearse the traditions of their ancestors. Original hymns were sung, original poems repeated, speeches made, and an historical address delivered by Rev. E. B. Huntington of Stamford, Ct.

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*Banking and Insurance Companies.*

The first banking establishments in Connecticut were the Hartford Bank and the Union Bank of New London, both chartered at the May session of the Legislature in 1792.

Norwich applied for a similar privilege at the same time with New London, but the Legislature declined to authorize more than one bank for the county, and persuaded the applicants from the two towns to unite in one institution to be called the Union Bank,—the directors to be chosen from both places, but the seat of the bank to be at New London.

This arrangement was accepted. Gen. Jedidiah Huntington was chosen President. The directors were equally divided between the two places, and were chosen alternately from New London and Norwich. The first from the latter place were—

Joshua Lathrop,  
Daniel L. Coit,  
Joseph Howland,

Joseph Williams,  
Samuel Woodbridge,  
Joseph Perkins.

These were afterward varied, but Joseph Perkins continued to be a director till 1830.

*Norwich Bank*, incorporated 1796; capital, \$150,000. In 1864, changed to *Norwich National Bank*, capital \$220,000.

This bank was organized June 21, 1796, at Braman's Tavern on the Plain, but for several years afterward the banking-room was the office of the president, Gen. Ebenezer Huntington, in Shetucket street. The first choice of directors gave the following result:

Ebenezer Huntington.

Joshua Lathrop, declined, and Uriah Tracy chosen.

Daniel Dunham, Elias Brown, Joseph Williams.

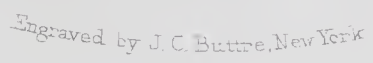
David Trumbull, declined, and John Taintor of Colchester chosen.

Jabez Huntington, Jabez Perkins, Elijah House,

James Lanman, Luther Payne, Jonathan Devotion.

The bank has had four presidents and five cashiers.





Fredrick Huntington





Presidents: 1, Ebenezer Huntington, 1796. 3, Jabez Huntington, 1823.  
 2, Simeon Breed, 1820. 4, Charles Johnson, 1848.  
 Cashiers: 1, Hezekiah Perkins, 1796. 3, J. Newton Perkins, 1834.  
 2, Francis A. Perkins, 1825. 4, Charles Johnson, 1836.  
 5. Frank Johnson, 1848.

Charles Johnson has been an officer of this bank for thirty years. Jedidiah Huntington has been on the Board of Directors since 1826,—forty years. Of the original stockholders, the one that lingered longest upon earth was Nathaniel McClellan, formerly of Pomfret, but lately of Norwich, who died Sept. 28, 1863, aged 86.

*Thames Bank*, incorporated 1825: capital \$200,000, increased in 1856 to \$500,000, and in July, 1865, to \$1,000,000. Organized as Thames National Bank, 1864.

It has had three presidents:

1, William P. Greene, 1825. 2, Edward Whiting, 1844. 3, Franklin Nichols, elected in July, 1851.

Cashiers: 1, Lyman Brewer, from 1825 to his death in June, 1857. 2, Charles Bard, elected in June, 1857, and still in office.

Two of the original stockholders of this bank, Henry M. Wait of Lyme, and Adam Larrabee, (then of Groton, but now of Windham,) are still living. Mr. Wait was a director of the bank fifteen years.\* Mr. Larrabee is still a member of the board, having been recently chosen for the forty-first time.

The rooms of this institution in the new bank building in Shetucket st. are considered superior in style and accommodation to those of any other banking house in the State. They are adorned with admirable life-like portraits of the first President and first Cashier.

*Quinebaug Bank*, incorporated 1832: capital \$500,000.

First meeting of directors June 11, 1833. The first president, Charles W. Rockwell, in office three years, was followed successively by Wm. C. Gilman, John A. Rockwell, and F. A. Perkins, in short terms; Samuel C. Morgan, 1843—1860; Lucius W. Carroll, to 1862; David Gallup of Plainfield, to 1864.

In June, 1864, this bank, having purchased the title and privileges of a National Bank that had been organized the preceding year under the general banking act, dropped the name Quinebaug, and was reorganized as the First National Bank of Norwich. The capital remains the same.

Lucius W. Carroll, president; Lewis A. Hyde, cashier.

Mr. Hyde had been cashier of the Quinebaug since 1832.

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\* The Golden Wedding of Hon. Henry M. Wait, LL. D., formerly Chief Judge of the Supreme Court of Connecticut, was commemorated at Lyme, Jan. 23, 1866.

*Merchants' Bank*, incorporated 1833; capital \$200,000. Changed in June, 1865, to Merchants' National Bank.

This bank has had two presidents and three cashiers.

1st president, William Williams, (25 years,) resigned Sept. 6, 1858; 2d, Henry B. Tracy, now in office.

1st cashier, Joseph Williams; 2d, Joel W. White; 3d, James M. Meech, since 1856.

*Shetucket Bank*, organized under the Free Banking Law of 1852; incorporated 1855: capital, \$100,000. Changed in 1864, to Shetucket National Bank.

Charles Osgood, president.

1st cashier, D. O. Strong; 2d, John L. Devotion, since 1855.

*Uncas Bank*, organized under the Free Banking Law of 1852; incorporated 1855; capital, \$300,000. Changed in 1864 to Uncas National Bank.

James A. Hovey, president; Edward H. Learned, cashier.

In this bank there has been no change of officers.

*Second National Bank*, organized under the General Act in July, 1864. Capital, \$100,000; since increased to \$300,000.

J. Hunt Adams, the first president, resigned in May, 1865, and was succeeded by David Smith. Charles P. Cogswell, cashier.

The year 1857 was marked by a great financial crisis in American business. Norwich was seriously affected by it. The Pequot Bank, which had been incorporated, relinquished its charter. The Quinebaug and Uncas Banks, failing to redeem their bills, were thrown out by the Suffolk Bank, Boston. They were however taken at par in trade, and never lost their value as a medium of circulation. At the beginning of the next year, the banks were able to redeem their bills, and regained their former credit.

The bank building in Shetucket street was erected in 1863, at a cost of \$60,000. It stands on a solid ledge of rocks, with the precipitous river bank in its rear. It is built of brick, with a front of Dorchester free-stone, and is over fifty feet in height. It consists of three sections, belonging to the Chelsea Savings Bank, Thames National Bank, and Norwich Savings Society. It accommodates also the Quinebaug National Bank and the Thames Insurance and Norwich Fire Insurance Companies, renting also a number of private offices.

During the years 1864 and 1865, the seven banks of Norwich were all arranged by their directors, under the General Banking Act of Congress, as National Banks.



*Norwich Savings Society.* This was incorporated in May, 1824, upon the petition of twenty persons, by whom, according to the terms of the charter, twenty others were chosen, the whole constituting a Board of Trustees. Of these forty trustees, at the close of 1865 only two are on the stage of life, viz., George L. Perkins and David N. Bentley. Three of the first twenty petitioners died during the year 1865, viz., Joseph Williams, John Breed, and Amos H. Hubbard, forty-one years after the charter grant.

The deposits during the first year (to Oct. 1, 1826,) amounted to \$20,000; in the first ten years, to \$160,000; and in twelve years, to \$226,000.

The first president was Charles Rockwell,\* who died in June, 1826, and was succeeded by Jabez Huntington. The late Francis A. Perkins was connected with this institution for a much longer time than any other officer. He was treasurer for the first ten years; then president four years; and in 1848 again elected treasurer and secretary, which offices he retained till his death in March, 1863. He was succeeded by Benjamin Huntington, who is still in office.

Amount deposited to January, 1866, \$4,553,580.40.

*Chelsea Savings Bank*, incorporated May, 1858.

Lorenzo Blackstone, president.

Charles M. Coit, treasurer; resigned in 1861, to enter the army. John B. Ward chosen to supply his place; four years in office. Chas. M. Coit re-appointed in July, 1865.

Amount of deposits to January, 1866, \$516,780.37.

A third savings bank, with the title of Farmers and Mechanics' Savings Bank, was organized in 1854, capital \$100,000, which was in operation a few years, but is now discontinued.

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### *Insurance Companies.*

*Norwich Mutual Assurance.* The charter for this company was granted on petition of Joshua Lathrop and others. The first meeting was held at the old court-house in Norwich Town, Dec. 29, 1794.

Zachariah Huntington, secretary.

This company has never had a president. Since 1844, Henry B. Tracy has been secretary and treasurer.

For a long course of years, the capital announced from year to year was \$6,666. The assets at the present time (close of 1865) are \$8,979.95.

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\* Father of Charles W. and John A. Rockwell.

The *Norwich Marine Insurance Co.* was chartered in 1803; capital, \$50,000. Joseph Howland, president; Shubael Breed, cashier.

The *Fire Insurance Co.* was organized in 1813. Ebenezer Huntington, treasurer; Joseph Williams, secretary.

These two companies were consolidated by act of the Legislature in October, 1818, and incorporated as the *Norwich Fire Insurance Company*. Capital, \$100,000; increased to \$200,000.

First president, Charles P. Huntington. Joseph Williams, secretary from 1818 to 1855.

Officers in 1865: Ebenezer Learned, president; J. L. Denison, secretary.

Cash capital, \$300,000. Assets, Feb. 1, 1866, \$415,571.72.

*New London Co. Mutual Fire Insurance.* Chartered in May, 1840; organized in July.

Joseph Backus, president; John DeWitt, secretary.

Assets, Jan. 1, 1866, \$32,869.13.

Elijah A. Bill, president since 1859.

John L. Devotion, secretary since 1853.

*Thames Fire Insurance.* Incorporated 1859; capital, \$200,000.

Amos W. Prentice, president; B. B. Whittemore, secretary.

Assets Jan. 1, 1866, \$249,747.97.

#### *Norwich and Worcester R. R. Co.*

Chartered in 1832, with the title of Boston, Norwich and New London R. R. Co.; capital, \$1,000,000.

In 1836, the corporate name was changed to *Norwich and Worcester R. R. Co.*, and the capital has since been increased to \$2,825,000.

Officers since 1836: presidents—

William C. Gilman, June, 1836—1 year.

Charles W. Rockwell, “ 1837—1 “

John A. Rockwell, “ 1838—3 “

Charles W. Rockwell, “ 1841—2 “

Dan Tyler, “ 1843—2 “

John C. Holland, “ 1845—3 “

Joel W. White, “ 1848—9 “

Augustus Brewster, “ 1857—1866.

James T. Richards, secretary and treasurer two years.

George L. Perkins, treasurer since 1838,—28 years.



Annual income of the road from 1840 to January, 1866:\*

1840, Earnings less than Disbursements.

1841, Earnings, \$151,926.94	1854, Earnings, \$322,754.43
1842, " 126,761.79	1855, " 304,236.33
1843, " 125,020.49	1856, " 132,745.92
1844, " 223,465.65	1857, " 287,756.58
1845, " 204,308.45	1858, " 283,556.27
1846, " 241,909.55	1859, " 351,689.68
1847, " 234,895.59	1860, " 358,362.34
1848, " 218,073.30	1861, " 288,512.22
1849, " 236,197.61	1862, " 353,664.90
1850, " 261,259.12	1863, " 432,559.56
1851, " 270,049.37	1864, " 631,728.19
1852, " 267,561.70	1865, " 714,059.83
1853, " 321,046.14	

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*Steamboat Companies.*

The communication with New York by a line of steamboats has been sustained with but little interruption since its first inauguration in 1817. The merchants of Norwich and New London were mutually interested in the earlier boats, and united in forming the first incorporated companies.

The Norwich and New London Steamboat Co. was organized in 1848, with a capital of \$200,000; Henry B. Norton, president. This line ran their boats in connection with the Norwich and Worcester Railroad; the terminus being at Allyn's Point. Among the boats employed were the *Cleopatra*, *Norwich*, *Worcester*, and *Connecticut*. The Commonwealth was built for them in 1855, and sold in 1860, about which time the company discontinued their operations, wound up their affairs, and was dissolved.

The Norwich and New York Transportation Company was organized under the General Act in 1860. Capital, \$350,000. Capt. Joseph J. Comstock of New York was the first president, succeeded in 1863 by David Smith of Norwich. Augustus Brewster treasurer, and P. St. M. Andrews secretary, from the beginning.

This company was formed for the purpose of facilitating the operations of the Norwich and Worcester Railroad Co. by furnishing an advantageous connection with New York. It was indebted for its origin, organization, and subsequent success, chiefly to the president of the railroad,

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\* Furnished by G. L. Perkins, Esq., Treasurer of the Road.

Mr. Brewster, who, as treasurer of the company, has been the general agent and efficient manager of the business from that time to March, 1866, when he resigned the office.

This company have four fine steamers built expressly for their line, and named after the points of communication to which their business extends. The *City of Boston* made her first trip from New York, July 4, 1861; the *City of New York* eighteen days later, July 22. The first trip of the *City of Norwich* was July 19, 1862; of the *City of New London*, May 22, 1863.

Gross earnings of the company from July 1861, to

Nov. 30, 1862, 16 months,	-	-	-	\$466,227
“ 30, 1863, one year,	-	-	-	416,243
“ 30, 1864, “	-	-	-	608,374
“ 30, 1865, “	-	-	-	704,198

The system of transportation established by this company in connection with the railroads, is the most perfect that has ever been arranged upon this route through the Sound. By contract with the New London Northern Railroad Co. an interchange of accommodations is effected; the Railroad Company using the boats of the Transportation Company for conveyance to New York, and the latter making use of the advantages afforded by the commodious wharf and depot landing at New London.

The Norwich and Worcester Railroad, by contract with the New London Northern R. R. Co., now run their express and passenger trains over the track of the latter on the west side of the Thames. This arrangement went into effect Oct. 1, 1861, and the terminus of the *through* business of the Norwich and Worcester R. R. Co. has since been at New London.

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Every year is adding importance to the navigation of the Thames, not only in regard to the interests of Norwich, but as an avenue to the manufacturing districts beyond Norwich. During a large part of the year, when the channel is unencumbered with ice, the river and the wharves are lively with business. Sloops and schooners are continually discharging freight. Large quantities of iron, coal, cotton, wool, rags, &c., are required by the manufacturers in and around Norwich, and a still greater quantity is conveyed through the place to be distributed on the northern routes. The article of coal alone is of great importance, an immense amount passing up the river to be transported to Worcester and other points in the interior.

In 1855, Thomas T. Wetmore, a ship-builder from East Boston, commenced work at Norwich, in the employ of J. M. Huntington & Co. The first vessels were built near Shetucket bridge, and launched nearly



under the bridge.\* The work was then transferred to a point on the west side of the river, near where the Cold Spring Iron Works were situated.

These iron-works were established by John Perit Huntington, at whose invitation Thomas Mitchell, an experienced artificer in iron,—originally from Birmingham, England,—came from Wareham, Mass., and took charge of the concern. This was in 1845; a rolling-mill was built, and has ever since continued in operation. The firm is now Mitchell, Brothers & Co.†

The rolling-mill and the ship-yard were the beginning of the prosperous village of Thamesville, which forms the southern extremity of the city.

In 1863, another rolling-mill with machinery of a different construction was established near the ship-yard. This belongs to a joint-stock company called the Thames Iron Works.

Since the year 1860, eight steam-vessels have been launched from the Thamesville ship yard, viz., the Norwich, Trade-wind, Prometheus, Whirlwind, Perit, Chase, and Hunter,—ranging in capacity from 400 to 700 tons.

Three of these steamers, the Norwich, Prometheus, and Uncas, were sold to the U. S. Government, and were in the public service during the war. The Norwich was altered into a gunboat, and commissioned in January, 1862. She carried six 32-pounders and 100 men, and was eminently useful in the Gulf of Mexico.

To the same company (J. Monroe Huntington and Theodore Raymond) belongs the credit of reviving the direct trade of the port with the West Indies. Their first undertaking in this line is noticed in the Norwich Courier, April 3, 1859.

The schooner *Ike Marvel*, which arrived at this port yesterday morning from Porto Rico, with molasses, sugar, and rum, has brought the first cargo of this description which has been landed here direct from the West Indies for over thirty years.

This trade has since been pursued by the company with spirit and success. The exports consist of lumber, assorted articles, and some live-stock. The returns are chiefly sugar and molasses. The high price of these articles has made the business very profitable.‡

\* Most of the ship-building at Norwich has been on the west side. Capt. Samuel Story, the master-builder of former days, who built the whale-ships *Connecticut* and *Chelsea*, and many other large vessels, died May 3, 1864, aged 84 years.

† In this mill an unfortunate accident happened May 9, 1864. By some derangement of the machinery, Thomas Mitchell, Jr., was struck by an iron bar in the chest, and instantly killed. He was 42 years of age.

‡ On a freight consisting chiefly of molasses and sugar, entered in June, 1865, by the brig *John R. Plater*, belonging to this firm, the duty assessed at the custom-house, New London, was \$6,688.72,—a sum indicative of a valuable cargo.

The schooner *Telegraph*, Martin L. Rogers captain, was first employed in this trade in 1859, sailing May 9th of that year, and was kept afterwards constantly upon the line. On the 13th of June, 1864, she arrived from her twenty-fourth voyage, having nearly averaged five voyages per year, and usually bringing from 200 to 220 hhds. per voyage. This is a great advance over the old rate of navigation,—when two, or at most, three West India voyages consumed the whole year,—and illustrates in a vivid manner the progress of skill, science and tact in this department of business.

This company have recently erected a ware-house at New London for the reception and storage of their West India goods.

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Vote of Norwich at the Presidential election, Nov. 4, 1856,—  
For Fremont, 1,142; Buchanan, 810; Fillmore, 23: total, 1,975.

Votes cast Nov. 8, 1864,—  
For Lincoln, 1,376; for McClellan, 1,101: total, 2,477.  
This was probably the largest vote ever cast in Norwich.

Vote of Norwich in August, 1864, in reference to the amendment of the National Constitution, abolishing slavery,—  
Yeas, 753. Nays, 196.

Vote in October, 1865, on the amendment of the State Constitution, so as to allow of negro suffrage,—  
Yeas, 898. Nays, 617.

Vote for Governor in April, 1863,—  
For Wm. A. Buckingham, 1,235; T. H. Seymour, 936: total, 2,171.  
In April, 1813, just 50 years before, the vote for Governor stood,—  
For John Cotton Smith, 126; Elijah Boardman, 112: total, 270.

Vote in April, 1865,—  
For Wm. A. Buckingham, 1,284; Origen S. Seymour, 462.



## CHAPTER LI.

### NORWICH IN CONNECTION WITH THE WAR FOR THE UNION.

THE fall of Fort Sumter and the call of the President for 75,000 men, —events that occurred successively on the 14th and 15th of April, 1861,— have made those days forever memorable in the history of our country. From a condition of outward repose, and amid the common routine of affairs, the whole nation was suddenly roused to a state of wild excitement. The startling fact, that *we were at war*, ran through the country like the rush of a whirlwind. The spirited outbreak of the North in favor of the Union was spontaneous and universal. A strong line was immediately drawn between loyalty and secession, but all other party distinctions and political feuds seemed for the time obliterated. The nation was without soldiers, without munitions of war or military equipments, but an army leaped into existence, armed, equipped, and ready for action.

A record of what was done in a single town to support the war for the Union, will duplicate the history of hundreds of other towns in New England. But there is a local interest in these side details of the great conflict, which makes it an imperative duty that they should be registered. Personal incidents and minor details, that might find no place in general histories of the war, have a deep and enduring interest for towns and neighborhoods. Honor and grateful regard call upon us to record the deeds of our volunteers, to perpetuate the names of the valiant, and to cherish the memory of those among them who fell in the service. A town history is incomplete without these memorials.

The Governor of Connecticut when the war broke out was William A. Buckingham, a citizen of Norwich, who was then in the fourth year of his administration. He was well known as an earnest patriot and a staunch friend both of the Union and the National Government. This undoubtedly quickened the action and added to the energy of the town measures. Large and enthusiastic meetings assembled almost spontaneously for the purpose of encouraging enlistments and pledging the efforts and resources of the community in support of the National Flag. The intense excitement that prevailed sought relief by demonstrations of loyalty in various modes.

There was no flag-staff or liberty-pole of any note in or around Norwich. Suddenly the National Banner was flung to the breeze from every conspicuous point in the landscape. It was swung across Main street, between Apollo Hall and the Wauregan; it was displayed from the tower of the First Congregational Church; it fluttered among the groves of Washington street, rose high over Broadway and the Free Academy, and graced the rope-walk, the engine halls, the numerous factories, the school-houses, and several private residences. It was elevated at Greeneville, at the Falls, on the old Court-house, at the Town-plot, and at Yanticville. As these threw out their folds, other flags from all the surrounding villages and towns of the old Nine-miles-square,—Bozrahville, Fitchville, Franklin, Sprague, Hanover, Jewett City,—rose and waved in unison. The highest of these standards was that which surmounted the Uncas engine-house at the Falls,—182 feet.

The Governor's call for volunteers to fill the quota of Connecticut was issued April 16th. In twenty-two days, fifty-four companies were raised in the State, offering their services for the three months, but as only three regiments were required, many of them were disbanded.

The First Regiment C. V. was recruited in Hartford. Two young men of Norwich, E. K. Abbott and S. T. C. Merwin, hastened thither and enrolled their names as privates in Rifle Co. A. This was the company that in just twelve hours from the opening of the roll, reported to the Adjutant-General, with a full complement of men and its officers chosen.

Col. Daniel Tyler, a retired officer of the regular army, residing at Norwich, was appointed Colonel of this regiment.\* John L. Spalding, also of Norwich, was the Sergeant-Major.

For the other two regiments, three companies were raised in the town, that went into service under Captains Frank S. Chester, Henry Peale, and Edward Harland. These officers, with their six lieutenants, and Lieut. Col. David Young of the 2d C. V., were all of Norwich. Twelve commissioned officers and 135 enlisted men are credited to the town for the three months service in the State accounts. The enlistments began April 18th.

Capt. Chester's company left the city for the camp at New Haven, April 22d, and Capt. Peale's the 24th. These were mustered into the 2d C. V. as companies A. and B. Capt. Harland's company left for Hartford the 29th, and was received into the 3d C. V.

The whole community was moved when these first companies departed. Warfare was a new experience, and the nature of the contest excited

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\* Colonel Tyler, now Brigadier-General, is a native of Brooklyn, Ct., and a graduate of West Point. He retired from the U. S. Army in 1832, and had been engaged as a civil engineer in superintending the construction of railroads. At a later period of the war, he commanded a division of the Army of the Mississippi.



thrilling emotions. Throngs of citizens, young and old, accompanied them to the place of their embarkation, embracing them, and invoking blessings on them and their cause. The magnitude of the principles involved in the contest seemed to give a deep significance to every measure connected with it.

In aid of these first enlistments, money was poured out like water. A large sum was raised by private subscription for bounties and equipments. The Thames Bank, following the example of other monied institutions of the State, tendered to the Governor a loan of \$100,000 for public use. A throng of ladies met for many successive days to prepare articles of clothing convenient for the departing soldiers. On Saturday evening, April 20, a meeting was held at Breed Hall, where eloquent speeches were made and patriotic resolutions carried, while at the same time the galleries and adjoining offices were occupied by women busily employed in making garments for the volunteers. Nor did this work cease upon the Sabbath. Labor and prayer went together through the day.

The following cotemporaneous notice gives a vivid idea of the scene, and shows the starting-point of a series of efforts for the health and comfort of the soldier in field, camp, and hospital, which, under feminine agency, with the title of the *Soldier's Aid Society*, knew no intermission from that time to the close of the war.

**A REVOLUTIONARY SABBATH.**—The 21st day of April was such a Sunday as the good town of Norwich never before saw. The beating of drums, the marching and drilling of military companies, the display of flags, and fluttering of bunting, the presence of unusual crowds in all the streets, the hum of labor where the uniforms of volunteers were being made, the earnestness and enthusiasm that seemed to animate the multitude, and the eagerness of the people to learn the latest intelligence by telegraph, all combined to make such a Sabbath as will long be remembered.

All day long the Buckingham Rifles, Capt. Frank S. Chester, were engaged in drill and exercise, preparing themselves for the active duties of the service in which they have enlisted.

About 350 ladies occupied Breed Hall and the offices below, engaged in making up the uniforms for the company.

At the several churches in the city, sermons appropriate to the times were preached. All the conversation was upon war topics. It was a Sunday such as we may have read of in our Revolutionary history, but have never before seen. [Bulletin.]

The three regiments left the State on the 10th, 14th and 22d of May. They were at first detained near Washington, and united in one command under Col. Tyler. They were afterward stationed along the outposts in Virginia, where they were engaged in guard duty, enlivened with scouting and skirmishing. In July they were ordered to Centerville, and from thence sent forward to meet the enemy, with whom they had their first encounter in a sharp skirmish at Blackburn's Ford. Three days afterward, July 21st, they took part in the battle at Bull Run.



In this disastrous fight the casualties of the three regiments were six men killed and sixty wounded and missing. Of the Norwich volunteers, only one was killed,—David C. Case, who was struck by a cannon-ball, and died on the field. Corporal John B. Jennings, Charles A. Murray and David Rosenblatt, enlisted men from Norwich, were taken prisoners.

Austin G. Monroe, a sergeant in Capt. Chester's company, had been previously captured. He was taken while out on a scouting excursion, with one companion, near Falls Church, Va., June 19th, and it was not known whether he was killed or captured till the next October, when his friends received a letter from him, dated in July from a Richmond prison. He endured a year's captivity before he was released.

The three regiments completed their term of service and were discharged in August. Two of the enlisted men from Norwich had died in hospital of disease. The prisoners, Jennings, Monroe, and Murray, were exchanged and came home the next June.\* Col. Tyler was commissioned as a Brigadier-General in March, 1862.

Fresh calls for volunteers were issued by the President, even before the return of the three months men,—May 4th for 300,000, and July 10th for 500,000. The recruiting service was kept lively, and the enlistments as yet were freely tendered. The civil and military authorities, public opinion and the spontaneous zeal of individuals, co-operated in favor of the measures of government.

In town meeting, Oct. 7, 1861, the following resolutions passed, almost by acclamation :

*Resolved*, That we extend our hearty thanks to our brave soldiers who have without distinction of party rallied to the defence of our glorious Union, and to the support of the Government in suppressing this causeless and most unnatural rebellion ;

That we are proud of the noble position our State has assumed in common with the other loyal States, and we hereby pledge to the Government our aid and support, with every energy God has given us, until our flag shall float over every fort belonging to the Union, and over every State from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico ;

That we are engaged in a contest as real and vital as the war of the Revolution, &c.

*Resolved*, That the Town Clerk be requested to procure a record-book, and make as perfect a Roster as practicable of the companies of Captains Chester, Peale, Harland, Dennis, Ward, Maguire, Sawyer, Daniels, and such other companies from Norwich as have been or shall be hereafter mustered into the service of the Government to aid in suppressing this rebellion, &c.

In 1862, additional calls for troops were made by the Government,—July 2d, 300,000 to serve for three years or the war ; and Aug. 4th, 300,000 for nine months. The quota of the town must be forthwith raised,

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\* Monroe and Murray, in a month after their return, re-enlisted and went into Capt. Peale's company, 18th C. V., and were again taken prisoners at Winchester in June, 1863.



and to aid the progress of enlistment a grand rally was made in favor of the flag, the Union, the Government, and the vigorous prosecution of the war. The public meetings held at Breed Hall and the mass meetings in Franklin Square were remarkable for the resolute earnestness that prevailed.

Many of the volunteers at this period seem to have entered their names on the roll in a spirit of spontaneous self-dedication, and others with an earnest sobriety indicative of deep-seated principle. It was creditable to human nature to find such fervent love of country and attachment to the Union pervading all classes of society. Clerks came from the stores, laborers from the farms, and operatives from the mills and workshops, with the same hearty alacrity.

The course of business, as well as of thought and conversation, was turned into the channel of war. The armories and machine-shops of the town developed an astonishing activity and adaptedness to the production of hostile weapons. The sail-makers in their lofts were engaged in making tents. Many skillful hands assisted by nice machinery were kept at work upon uniforms and other military equipments.\*

The highest point of enthusiasm was reached at a town meeting held on the 30th of August to consider the best means of raising the town's quota of 300,000 men for nine months. This was one of the most exciting and enthusiastic meetings ever convened in Norwich. The tenders made by individuals were on a noble scale of liberality. One after another, in a spirit of emulous zeal, such offers as these were made,—

One hundred dollars to the first ten that enlist.

The same to the second ten.

Ten dollars to the first sixty.

The same to the next twenty.

One thousand dollars to the families of those that enlist.

Five hundred to the same.

One hundred to the same.

Another hundred to the same, &c., &c.

Some twenty or thirty offers of this kind were thus spontaneously made, either at the moment, or added afterward by individuals not present at the meeting, raising a sum considerably above \$20,000.

In the public assemblies convened at this interesting period, it was not uncommon for individuals, moved by the stirring appeals of the speakers, or prompted by their own determined purpose, to come forth from the audience, and with deep emotion offer themselves to their country. It was

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\* James M. Nelson of Norwich contracted in 1862 to make 1000 military coats per month from January to June. He kept 200 hands and two dozen sewing-machines at work. Daniel Delanoy contracted to make a large number of tents for the Connecticut regiments.

thus that Captains Peale, Selden, Stanton, Huntoon and others volunteered their services. Several of the early companies seemed to be raised with the swell of a flood, sweeping them into the ranks.

Through the whole contest there was no departure in the action of the town from the spirit of these early measures. But as the war went forward, demanding its hundreds of thousands of recruits, it became more and more difficult in Norwich, as in other towns, to raise the prescribed number. Volunteer enlistments were no longer to be expected. The material was exhausted; there was no surplus on hand. Even in the peaceful pursuits of trade and agriculture, the incessant demands of the army led to a deficiency of laborers.

But the draft or conscription authorized conditionally by the Government was not enforced in Norwich. A few individuals procured substitutes, but in general the quotas of the town, to answer the repeated calls of 1863-4, were raised by the selectmen or by war committees, who by large bounties and strenuous exertions procured the requisite number.

The State in 1863 made the liberal offer of \$300 to every person, white or colored, that should enlist before January, 1864. The town about the same time increased their bounty to \$150. This being found insufficient, by a vote of Dec. 1, 1864, the whole business was entrusted to a war committee, who were to pay drafted persons, substitutes and volunteers on the quota of the town, such sums as should be considered necessary and expedient. This committee paid in some instances a very high bounty. The glow of enthusiasm had faded away. The war was a settled affair, and recruits were to be raised, as other business was transacted, upon pecuniary principles.

Most of these later recruits differed widely in character from the early enlisted men. Those were patriots, and these were hirelings. Very few of the latter were town residents. They were procured by agents from other places, and many of them after securing the bounty took the first opportunity to desert. Others among them made good soldiers. But these later enlistments represented the town, only as paid for by its funds and credited to its account in the State calendar.

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A brief sketch of the forces raised in Connecticut for the prosecution of the war, will give opportunity to point out how far Norwich participated in the great contest. Each town in this respect has a history of its own. The object in this outline will be to trace the officers and enlisted men from this one community only, in order to show in what lines of service they were engaged as members of the State regiments.

The volunteers from the State, enlisting in 1861 and 1862, to serve for three years or during the war, were arranged in seventeen regiments, numbered from 4 to 21 inclusive.



It was estimated that nearly two-thirds of the three months men re-enlisted in the service. Many who had served as privates became officers in the new levies, the experience they had gained being of great advantage in drilling the fresh recruits and preparing them for duty.

The 4th C. V. was mustered at Hartford in June, 1861. The Major, Henry Birge, and Assistant Surgeon, Edwin Bentley, with eighteen or twenty members of different companies, were from Norwich. It was sent to Harrisburg, and associated with Gen. Patterson's troops. In November, it was stationed at Fort Richardson, near Washington. In January, 1862, this regiment was changed from infantry to artillery, and re-organized as 1st Conn. Heavy Artillery, under the management of Major Birge, who was appointed Colonel of the Artillery, but soon afterward transferred to the 13th Regiment of Infantry.

The 5th C. V. was the regiment which Col. Colt proposed to adopt and equip. A very fine Irish company was raised in Norwich, with the expectation of joining this regiment, called the Jackson Guards. They were thoroughly drilled by Col. Thomas C. Kingsley of Franklin, and chose for their Captain, Thomas Maguire. When Col. Colt threw up his interest in the regiment, the Jackson Guards, 88 in number, disbanded, but were afterward re-organized and accepted into the 1st New York Regiment of Artillery. Capt. Maguire was subsequently a Major in the New York service. William A. Berry, of this company, was promoted Captain, and after participating in many severe battles, and serving from his first enlistment in the three months campaign, full three years, was killed during the siege of Petersburg. He was succeeded by Capt. Thomas Scott, also of the Norwich company.

In the 5th C. V., afterward under the command of Col. Warren W. Packer of Mystic, Norwich had no officers, and only a few enlisted men, less than twenty in all. This regiment was mustered in July, 1861, and was sent to Virginia, where they had many sharp conflicts with the enemy. Stonewall Jackson inquired of a prisoner how many 5th Connecticuts there were, since he heard of them on all sides. At the battle of Cedar Mountain, they lost 173, killed, wounded, and missing. Nine brave men fell in defending their colors; among whom was Sergeant Alexander S. Avery, of Norwich, who died upon the battle-field, Aug. 9, 1862.

In September, 1863, the 5th C. V. was transferred from the Army of the Potomac to that of the Cumberland. It was with Sherman in his long southern march. At the hard-fought battle of Resaca, Ga., May 15, 1864, out of ten men belonging to Norwich, who had re-enlisted as veterans, four were reported among the wounded.\*

Of the 6th C. V. William G. Ely of Norwich was appointed Lieut. Colonel, but was soon transferred by promotion to the 18th. The Quar-

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\* John G. Blake, Thomas W. Baird, Delano Carpenter, and Stephen Corcoran.



master, J. V. B. Williams, and twelve enlisted Germans, were from Norwich. This regiment obtained honorable notice for its conspicuous gallantry in the fierce assaults upon the Morris Island batteries and Fort Wagner, near Charleston. In one of these attacks, its commander, Col. Chatfield, received his death wound.

Alfred P. Rockwell, of Norwich, was appointed Colonel in June, 1864. He had previously served two years as Captain of the 1st Light Battery, C. V., and had been stationed on James Island and other parts of the Carolinian coast, co-operating in the siege of Charleston.

The 7th C. V. received the first regular company of three years men that was recruited in Norwich. The Captain, John B. Dennis, and the Lieutenants, Theodore Burdick and Gorham Dennis, were town residents. Of the enlisted men, twenty-three were from Norwich, the remainder of the company from neighboring towns. Lieut. Burdick, subsequently promoted to the command of a company, was killed at Fort Wagner, July 11, 1863.

The 7th C. V. was the first Union regiment that landed on the soil of South Carolina. They were in Wright's Brigade under Sherman, in the expedition against Beaufort, and after the bombardment and ruin of Fort Walker, when the troops disembarked, the 7th Connecticut took the lead, landing in twenty-seven boats upon the beach below Hilton Head.

This regiment afterward performed a vast amount of exhausting work at Tybee Island, preparatory to the reduction of Fort Pulaski. These labors were continued for four months without intermission. During the bombardment, the 7th Connecticut managed five out of the eleven batteries that fired upon the fort, and the flag of the captured fortress was sent to the Governor of Connecticut, as a token of the distinguished part the regiment had taken in its reduction.\*

Capt. Dennis of Norwich commanded one of the batteries. His brother, 2d Lieut. Gorham Dennis, was obliged to resign and return home, the drifting sands and bright sunshine of the place affecting his eyes, and threatening him with entire loss of sight.†

This regiment in February, 1864, participated in the hazardous and exhausting march upon Olustee, Fla., and was afterward engaged upon the James River and in the trenches before Petersburg. On the first of June, while guarding the picket line, the regiment was attacked with great fury, several companies flanked, and 83 prisoners taken by the enemy. Capt. Dennis and 20 of his company were of the number.

While Capt. Dennis was detained a prisoner, he was one of the Union soldiers sent to Charleston and placed within the range of the U. S. cannon

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\* Conn. War Record, p. 32.

† Four brothers Dennis, sons of Jared Dennis of Norwich Falls, were in the army during the war.



in retaliation for the bombardment of the city, which was then in progress under Gen. Gillmore. In a letter published soon after his escape, he says:

“On the 16th of August last, [1864,] I was one of 600 U. S. prisoners of war that arrived in the city of Charleston to be placed under fire of the U. S. batteries on Moon’s Island; 600 having arrived a few days before, and 600 a few days after, making in all 1800, all confined within one square, viz., Work-house, Marine Hospital, Jail, and Roper Hospital. Our condition was one of extreme wretchedness, very few having any money, and fewer still clothes to cover them.”

Capt. Dennis was afterward transferred to other places of confinement, and during his captivity was a tenant of six different prisons. The last was Richland Jail in Columbus, S. C., from which he attempted to escape with two other officers early in November, 1864. They obtained a small boat, and passing down the Congaree, concealed themselves by day, and pursued their course by night. But the second night, while enveloped in a thick fog, the boat struck a snag, and upset in deep, rapid water. After nearly perishing in the struggle for life, they succeeded in reaching the shore, but were discovered, recaptured, and sent back to Columbus.

On the 24th of December, Capt. Dennis, with thirteen companions, made another attempt, which proved successful. They obtained a flat-boat through the aid of friendly negroes, and in their passage down the river were guided and fed by others of the colored race, till at length they reached the ocean, where fortunately a gunboat was lying off shore, to which they made signals, and were taken on board.\*

In the 8th C. V. Norwich had a large interest. Edward Harland, one of the Captains of the three months service, was its Colonel; Charles M. Coit, Adjutant; DeWitt C. Lathrop, Assistant Surgeon; and John E. Ward, Captain of Co. D, with James R. Moore and Charles A. Breed, Lieutenants. Nearly half of the enlisted men in Capt. Ward’s company belonged in Norwich.

This regiment was in Burnside’s expedition to North Carolina. Col. Harland was soon placed in command of a brigade, and Capt. Ward by rapid promotion became Colonel of the regiment. Two of the Norwich officers, after a few months of efficient service, were numbered with the dead. Dr. DeWitt C. Lathrop died at Newbern in April, 1862, of illness caused by over-exertion in the duties of his office. Lieut. Breed, while engaged in important service on the Signal Corps, took the fever of the country, and expired in July. These men, languishing and perishing from disease, died for their country as truly as others on the battle-field.

This regiment was in the battle’s front at South Mountain and at Antietam. In the last-named terrible fight they suffered severely. “We

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\* Speech of Hon. L. F. S. Foster in the U. S. Senate, Jan. 25, 1865, published in the Daily Globe at Washington.

faced the foe until half the regiment were shot down, and retired only when we were ordered.”\*

In this battle the regiment was led by Capt. J. E. Ward, Col. Harland having charge of a brigade. It went into action about 400 strong, and lost 194, killed, wounded, and missing.

Among the slain was Lieut. Marvin Wait of Norwich. His comrades afterward spoke with admiration of the “steadfast and courageous demeanor” which this young man, scarcely above the age of boyhood, displayed in the field of battle. When a ball from a rebel battery struck in the midst of his company, killing three, wounding others, covering the lieutenant himself with blood and earth, and creating some confusion in the ranks, he rushed to the front, closed up their lines, and cheered them on to the assault. He stood firm amid a shower of bullets, and when wounded in the arm, refused to retire, nor left his post until he had received three shots and was fainting with the loss of blood. He was then aided to a place considered safe, but received the last fatal shot while lying helpless on the ground.

He was the first commissioned officer from Norwich, that fell in the war for the Union. His remains were tenderly conveyed to his parents, and laid in the quiet cemetery upon the Yantic, where the marble dedicated to his memory is inscribed with names that keep fresh the remembrance of his valor: *Roanoke Island, Fort Macon, South Mountain, Antietam.*†

In the campaign of 1863, the 8th Conn. was in Eastern Virginia. On the 19th of April, while stationed at Suffolk, Col. Ward, acting under orders from Gen. Getty, with 130 men from his own regiment, and 150 of the 89th N. Y. Vols. under Lieut. Col. England, went up the Nansemond and made a brilliant charge upon the Hill’s Point battery, an annoying post held by the enemy upon the river bank. The first man to leap from the gunboat to the shore and press forward to the attack was Capt. McCall of the 8th C. V.‡ The post was taken by storm; the New York and the Connecticut soldiers planted their flags side by side upon the ramparts; the garrison was captured, and the cannon turned against their former owners in the shortest possible time. The official report says:

“We were landed at Hill’s Point, in the rear of Fort Huger, a little before sunset,

\* Conn. War Record, p. 11.

† Forrest Spofford, another of Capt. Ward’s company, enlisting at the age of eighteen, lost his left arm in consequence of wounds received at Antietam, but he remained in the service, and at Walthall Junction, in May, 1864, was slightly wounded in his right arm. He was earnestly desirous of re-enlisting as a veteran, but being rejected by the examining surgeon, served out his three years and was honorably discharged.

‡ Conn. War Record, p. 12.



immediately charged upon the works, and after a very short struggle, captured the fort, with five pieces of artillery, a large quantity of ammunition, and about 130 prisoners, including seven officers."

This gallant exploit was alike honorable to Col. Ward and the brave men of his command.

In the advance upon the enemy made by a part of Gen. Butler's army, May 7, 1864, the 8th Conn. led the van, as a skirmishing force. A severe engagement took place, near the Walthall junction of the Richmond and Petersburg R. R., in which the regiment was exposed to a raking fire from artillery in the open field, and was at last compelled to retreat with a list of casualties amounting to 72.

In this action Col. Ward was severely bruised with a shell, Capt. James R. Moore badly wounded, and Lieut. Alfred M. Goddard struck down by a fatal bullet while advancing in the battle's front and cheering on his men.

Lieut. Goddard was a young man of noble character. The purest patriotism, a deep conviction that he owed this service to his country, led him into the field. He had been absent for some time from his regiment, engaged on staff duty with Gen. Harland, but hastened to rejoin his command when it was called into action, and fell in his first fight. He was conveyed to Fortress Monroe, and there died two days afterward.

On the 16th of May, in a battle fought in the midst of an Egyptian fog, at Drury's Bluff, near Fort Darling, where the Union forces were again repulsed, the gallant Capt. John McCall of Norwich was shot through the heart, and died instantly. This young officer possessed all the prominent characteristics of a good soldier; he was cool, steady, prompt, and skillful. He had enlisted as a private, and obtained promotion by acknowledged merit.

Lieut. Goddard and Capt. McCall were interred at Norwich, with an interval of one week between the funeral services. The city authorities, the military, and the public generally, vied with personal friends in honoring the remains of these heroic young men. They were of equal age, went from the same place, and were slain within ten days of each other, in the sanguinary conflicts upon the James river, martyrs to the same nobility of principle,—love for liberty and the Union.

In this campaign, the 8th Conn., forming a part of the Army of Virginia, could find of course no season of repose.\* It was a crisis requiring incessant watchfulness and action. The actors described it as a daily battle continuing for months,—a constant round of marching, fighting, sieging, doing picket duty, digging trenches and lying in them, unless startled by

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\* "The 8th Connecticut, one of the most heroic bands of men that ever marched beneath a battle-flag." Abbott's History of the War, 2:175.

mines, or called away by sudden attacks to more arduous service.\* The regiment was reduced to little more than half its original strength. Col. Ward was placed in command of a brigade, and Capt. Charles M. Coit of Co. B. commanded the regiment through the sanguinary conflicts at Cold Harbor, the successful charge before Petersburg, and the months of heavy siege work that followed, but in an engagement at Fair Oaks, Oct. 28th, while acting as Assistant Adjutant-General, he was severely wounded in the chest, and recovering but slowly, retired from the service in May, 1865.

The 9th C. V. was principally an Irish regiment. A company was recruited for it in Norwich, called the Sarsfield Guards. Silas W. Sawyer was Captain, and between 20 and 30 of the enlisted men were residents in the town. The regiment was mustered into service at Lowell, Mass., in November, 1861. The Sarsfield Guards were at first somewhat wild and unruly, and the petty trespasses of the company near Lowell made the warning cry of "Connecticut over the fence!" a temporary watch-word; but when well drilled they made excellent soldiers.

This regiment was sent to New Orleans, and performed its three years of arduous duty in the regions bordering upon the Mississippi. It came home on veteran furlough in April, 1864, and was then sent into Virginia. Capt. Addis E. Payne and Lieut. J. H. Lawler were from Norwich.†

In the 10th regiment, as it went first into the army, Norwich had no representatives. George C. Ripley was afterward appointed Lieutenant, but detached to act upon the staff of Gen. Ferry.

The 11th C. V. was mustered into service under Col. Thomas H. C. Kingsbury of Franklin, and was afterward commanded by Col. H. W. Kingsbury, who was killed at Antietam. A fine company called the Harland Rifles, recruited in Norwich and gathering 23 of the enlisted men from the town, went into this regiment, under Captain Daniels of Franklin.

The 8th, 10th and 11th regiments were in Burnside's expedition against North Carolina. Col. Kingsbury and 500 of his men were on board the *Voltigeur* when she stranded on Cape Hatteras, and lay there twenty-three days before they could get ashore.

In the renowned battle of Antietam, so destructive to human life, no single regiment was visited with such fearful slaughter as the 11th Con-

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\* Report of Major Pratt.

† In October, 1865, Lieut. Lawler, late of the 9th C. V., went to Ireland on a visit to his kindred. On arriving in Dublin, he was arrested by the British authorities on suspicion of being a secret agent of the Fenians. His revolver, army medals, &c., were taken as proofs of his hostile intentions. He was soon, however, released and his pistols and documents restored. [Norwich Aurora.]



necticut. Besides losing its Colonel, it was nearly halved. Before the conflict its strength was 440; 97 were killed, and 102 wounded.\*

In less than two years this regiment was again deprived of its commander by the pitiless stroke of war. Col. Griffin A. Stedman, of Hartford, a brave and accomplished officer, was killed before Petersburg, Aug. 5, 1864.

The commissioned officers from Norwich in the 11th C. V. were Capt. Joseph H. Nickerson, and Lieuts. G. W. Keables and James E. Fuller.

In the 12th C. V. Norwich had but a few enlisted men, and only one commissioned officer that remained in the regiment, viz., Lieut. Dwight McCall of Yantic; but in the 13th C. V. the town was largely represented. Henry W. Birge, Colonel; J. B. Bromley, Quartermaster; N. A. Fisher, Assistant Surgeon; G. W. Whittlesey, Adjutant; Captains Alfred Mitchell and James McCord; Lieuts. J. C. Abbott, W. P. Miner, and R. A. Ripley, with nearly half a hundred enlisted men, were from Norwich.

These two regiments, 12th and 13th, were sent to New Orleans, and employed in the departments of the Gulf and the Mississippi.

The 13th was quartered at first in the custom-house, and was like a right hand to General Butler in preserving order and sustaining the honor of the Union flag. This regiment was remarkable not only for its fine appearance, neat equipments, and soldier-like regard to manners and etiquette, but for prompt obedience of orders and faithful performance of duty.

These regiments in their southern campaigns had a trying experience of battles, sieges, skirmishes, fevers, and long marches. At Georgia Landing their first blood was shed. They were in sharp fights at Thibodeaux, Labadierville, Camp Bissell, Irish Bend,† and Port Hudson.

At Port Hudson, after the Union forces had been twice repulsed, Gen. Banks called upon the army for a storming party of 1,000 volunteers, to take the post or perish in the attempt. Col. Birge was the first officer to respond. He collected a roll of 1,026 volunteers,—91 officers and 935 enlisted men,—and offered himself with them to the commanding General to make the attempt. Of this party, 242 were from the regiment of Col. Birge, (13th C. V.) and 45 from the 12th C. V. The others were gathered out of the forty or fifty regiments at that time composing the Union Army of the Mississippi. While this heroic band were preparing for

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\* Four of the Norwich men in the company of Capt. Daniels were slain: David M. Ford, J. C. Holwell, H. M. Scholfield, and John W. Wood.

† Capt. McCord of Norwich was highly commended for bravery at Irish Bend. While the 13th was encamped at Thibodeaux, Lieut. Andrew T. Johnson of Montville and Lieut. Wheeler of New Haven were killed by the explosion of a car loaded with ammunition.

their hazardous task, the post was unexpectedly surrendered, and the service was not required. This, however, does not detract from the patriotism and self-sacrifice implied in the offer, which history will record as a special instance of heroism and devotion to the Union cause. When the formal surrender of the fort took place, the storming party, led by Col. Birge and bearing the flag of the 13th C. V., were the first that entered the works, and the garrison grounded their arms before them.

In the 14th C. V. Norwich had several efficient officers and nearly 40 enlisted men. William H. Tubbs and James B. Coit were Captains; Henry P. Goddard and James R. Nickels promoted to the same rank; Morton F. Hale and Frederick Schalk, Lieutenants.

This regiment has a martial record that places it high in the ranks of heroism. In the first four battles inscribed upon its banners, it was successively divided into nearly equal shares between those that suffered and those that escaped injury. The loss at Antietam was 156;\* at Fredericksburg, 120 out of 320 that went into battle; at Chancellorville, 70 out of 220; at Gettysburg, 66 out of 160. Notwithstanding its reduced ranks, this regiment at Gettysburg, in the final terrific charge, when the grand attack of Lee was repulsed, took five regimental battle-flags and over forty prisoners.†

In the Virginia campaign of 1864, this regiment again met with severe losses,—taking part in the battles of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, and others. Capt. Coit, promoted Major in October, 1863, was wounded in five different battles. Lieut. Schalk died of wounds received in the Wilderness. Capt. Nickels, severely wounded in the battle at Ream's Station, languished and died in a hospital at Washington,—one of the purest, bravest spirits that the war numbered among its victims.

In the next three regiments Norwich had no local interest, but the 18th was regarded as peculiarly her own, or *the home regiment*. It was the first that was here mustered into service. The Fair Ground near the city was prepared for the camp, and a hickory flag-staff eighty feet high raised as the signal-post. The regiment consisted of five companies from Windham county, and five from New London county. The latter were all recruited in Norwich, and the costly banners of the regiment, National and State, were a gift from the ladies of the place.

Of the commissioned officers, eighteen were from Norwich, viz., Wm. G. Ely, Colonel; D. W. Hakes, Quartermaster; C. M. Carleton, Surgeon; J. P. Rockwell, Sergeant-Major; five Captains,—Davis, Bromley, Hakes, Peale, Knapp; and nine Lieutenants,—1st, Lindsay, Morrison, Merwin, Palmer,—2d, Cowles, Francis, Higgins, Lilly, and Tiffany. Of

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\* Report of Col. Morris.

† Report of Col. Ellis.



the enlisted men, 240 are credited to Norwich on the rolls of the Adjutant-General.

The regiment left Norwich Aug. 22, 1862. As they marched through the streets to the place of embarkation, flowers and evergreens were showered upon them, prayers and blessings followed them in the way.

They were stationed for several months in and near Baltimore; not indeed idle, but winning no laurels, and chafing somewhat at their inglorious ease. Capt. Peale was appointed Major of the regiment; Capt. Bromley detailed to act as Provost-marshal; Capts. Hakes and Knapp resigned, and were succeeded by their Lieutenants, F. A. Palmer and J. H. Morrison. Dr. Carleton relinquished the post of Surgeon on account of ill health.

At the opening of the campaign of 1863, the 18th was placed at once in the front of danger, being assigned to Milroy's command in Virginia, and stationed at or near Winchester, which was then an outpost against the inroads of the enemy.

The three days of June, 1863, (13th, 14th, and 15th,) were a severe ordeal to this regiment. The Confederate forces under Generals Ewell, Early, and Jackson, advanced against Winchester, drove the Union detachments back upon the town, made attacks in different directions, and after several sharp contests, came suddenly upon the outworks of the main fort and took them by storm. The fight continuing, and General Milroy, who had previously sent off his artillery and wagons, finding himself in danger of being surrounded, spiked his guns and withdrew during the night with all his command. Four miles from Winchester, he was intercepted by a strong force of the enemy planted in the way with artillery, but after a desperate fight of two hours, succeeded in cutting his way through with the greater part of his army. Two regiments, 18th Conn. and 5th Maryland, being dissevered from the main body, after a fruitless resistance, were captured almost entire.

Of the 18th C. V. 60 were left dead upon the field, 90 more wounded, and 469 taken prisoners. In this last number Col. Ely and Lieut. Col. Nichols were included. Among the slain was the gallant Capt. Edward L. Porter, a fine scholar and an able officer, who enlisted at Norwich, though belonging to New London. He graduated at Yale College in 1857, and was both endowed by nature and prepared by culture to embellish society, extend the domain of science, and benefit mankind.

The captured men were immediately sent forward to Richmond, except the wounded, who were left at Winchester in charge of J. D. Ripley, the hospital steward of the 18th, who, though himself wounded, dressed the wounds of thirty-six others before attending to his own hurt.\* That part

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\* Mr. Ripley was afterward released by a party of Union soldiers who made a dash-



of the regiment which escaped capture, numbering about 200, assembled at Harrisburg under Major Peale. Most of the private soldiers that had been sent to Richmond, were after a few weeks paroled and exchanged, rejoining the regiment in October; but the officers were confined for nine months in the Libby and Belle-island prisons, and not exchanged till the next March. Col. Ely was one of a party of Union officers that escaped from Libby in February, 1864, by tunneling, but was recaptured before reaching the Federal lines, and carried back to confinement.

With its ranks partially restored, the 18th entered upon the campaign of 1864 in the Shenandoah Valley. It took part in the action at Newmarket, May 15th, and fought with conspicuous gallantry under General Hunter's command, at the severe battle of Piedmont, June 5th. Colonel Ely's report says:

"The 18th Conn. Volunteers were on the right of Gen. Hunter's line of battle, its colors took the lead in the first charge, and floated defiant till we triumphed. All of the Color Guard were wounded except one, our banner riddled by minie balls and cannon shot, and a loss of 127 in killed and wounded tells our story."

Among the victims were Adjutant E. B. Culver, a brave and valued officer, Corporal J. T. Bradley, and private William H. Hamilton, young men from Norwich who left good situations to devote themselves to the service of their country. Lieut. J. T. Maginnis of Co. E, after being released from his long captivity in Richmond, came home on a brief furlough, and had rejoined the regiment only a week before the battle. Faithful and gallant to the last, he fell at his post, mortally wounded, and died the next day.\*

The 18th was constantly engaged during this long campaign, either in toilsome journeys or severe battles; marching upwards of 1,100 miles, and participating in six general engagements,—at Newmarket, Piedmont, Lynchburg, Snicker's Ford, the second battle of Winchester, and Berryville, all in Virginia.

The regiment was finally mustered out of service at Harper's Ferry, June 27, 1865. It was then 550 strong, and had been three years in the field, but its ranks had been several times strengthened by recruits. Col. Ely had previously resigned, and the regiment was under the command of Lieut. Col. Peale, a veteran officer who had been upwards of four

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ing inroad upon the town. He rejoined his regiment at Harper's Ferry, and continued in the service to the close of the war, passing through all the dangers of captivity, the march, the camp, and the battle field, to meet death at last in an unexpected moment and in one of its most appalling forms. See ante, p. 638.

\* "In the deaths of Lieut. Maginnis and Adjutant Culver, the regiment lost two valuable officers. In camp they inspired the soldiers to excel in a faithful and cheerful discharge of military duties, and on the battle-field encouraged the command by gallant examples." Col. Ely's report.



years almost constantly in the field, having recruited a company immediately after the fall of Fort Sumter, and continued in active service till the army began to disband.

In the 19th regiment, as originally organized, Norwich had no volunteers, and in the 20th C. V., "the Buckingham Legion," the only name from the place on the original muster-roll is that of Charles J. Arms, Adjutant, who was transferred to the staff of Brig. Gen. Harland.

The 21st C. V. was the second regiment that had its rendezvous at Norwich, going into camp at the Fair Ground side by side with the 18th. It left the city Sept. 11, 1862. Hiram B. Crosby, Major; J. H. Lee, Surgeon; Lieuts. C. A. Brand and James Stanley, with about 30 enlisted men, were gathered from the town. The first commanders of this regiment, Col. Dutton and Lieut. Col. Burpee, both died in June, 1864, of wounds received in the hard-fought battles in Virginia, and Major Crosby was appointed to the command.

The 21st was the last of the seventeen regiments raised on the calls of 1861-2, for three years service or during the war. But even before the departure of the 21st, the President's proclamation was out, issued Aug. 4, 1862, calling for 300,000 of the militia for nine months service. Consequently there was no cessation of the recruiting business. Seven regiments were raised in Connecticut in compliance with this demand, and numbered from 22 to 28 inclusive.

The 26th C. V. was drawn from New London and Windham counties, and had its camp-ground at Norwich, where it was organized in August; Thomas C. Kingsley of Franklin, Colonel. The terms of the proclamation authorized a draft; the quota of Norwich was 139. This number was raised by voluntary enlistment, and there was no necessity for a conscription. On the rolls of the regiment as it went into service, 141 are credited to Norwich, viz., 16 commissioned officers and 125 enlisted men.

The officers from Norwich were Joseph Selden, Lieut. Colonel; Stephen B. Meach, Adjutant; B. F. Tracy, Quartermaster; Elisha Phinney, Asst. Surgeon; Capts. Clarke Harrington, Samuel T. Huntoon, Loren A. Gallop, John L. Stanton, and seven 1st and 2d Lieutenants. Rev. N. T. Allen of Jewett City went as Chaplain.

The regiment mustered 900 strong, and was accepted Nov. 10th, leaving Norwich the 14th. It was sent immediately to New Orleans, and from thence up the Mississippi, where it joined the army of Gen. Banks at the siege of Port Hudson, and participated in three sharp engagements before that post, May 27th, and June 13th and 14th.

The first of these assaults upon the stronghold was marked by great daring and fearful slaughter. The attack was made in four lines, of which the 26th Conn. formed one, and it was the first time that the regiment had been under the enemy's fire. The report says:



"In advancing we encountered three high parallel fences, and in getting over them much confusion ensued, and before we could get into line the enemy opened upon us with shell, shot, grape and canister, mowing down our men by scores."

The killed and wounded of the 26th amounted to 107. The gallant Captain John Stanton of Norwich was shot dead. Colonel Kingsley was seriously wounded, and the command of the regiment devolved on Lieut. Col. Selden. In the engagement of June 14th, Lieut. Jacobs of Norwich received a mortal wound.

This regiment, though in the field but nine months, returned with a roll of only 550. It had suffered greatly from sickness; 27 had died on the battle-field, or of wounds received in battle, but more than thrice that number of disease. Some were left behind in hospitals; seven were buried in their long route homeward; and one—Miles Bromley of Jewett City—expired on the boat just before reaching home. The returning soldiers were mustered out of service at the Fair Ground, Dec. 20, 1863.\*

Besides these regiments of Infantry, Connecticut raised in the first years of the war a Battalion of Cavalry, two companies of Light Battery, and two regiments of Heavy Artillery.

In the First Cavalry, Capts. Charles Farnsworth and Joab B. Rogers, with Lieuts. J. H. Kane and H. T. Phillips, were from Norwich. This battalion left the State in January, 1862. During the first year of service it was in the Mountain Department of Virginia, under Schenck, Fremont, and Milroy, continually engaged in reconnoitering and fighting, meeting with the hair-breadth escapes and participating in the dashing conflicts that usually characterize border warfare.

In April, 1863, Capt. Farnsworth while passing with a small detachment along a mountain path, was suddenly attacked by a concealed force, and received a severe shot-wound, the ball passing through his arm and side. At a later period of the war, when but partially recovered, he was taken prisoner near Harper's Ferry, and endured for eight months the dreary seclusion of a Richmond prison.

The First Cavalry has a stirring and eventful history; sweeping in its campaigns through Virginia and the Carolinas in many hazardous raids. It was changed from a battalion to a regiment, and out of its 1,650 recruits about 80 were credited to Norwich.

Capt. Farnsworth, promoted Colonel, resigned in May, 1864. Capt. Rogers, who joined the battalion at its first muster in 1861, was honorably discharged, after nearly four years service, in February, 1865. Lieut. Kane, captured by the enemy in Wilson's raid, experienced for a few

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\* Nov. 14, 1864, nearly 300 members of the 26th Regiment met at a social reunion in Norwich: Col. Kingsley, chairman; Adj. Meech, secretary. An address was delivered by Rev. N. T. Allen, who had been the chaplain of the regiment.



months the discomforts of the Libby prison. Lieut. Phillips, promoted Captain, and J. L. Richardson, Adjutant, came home with the regiment in August, 1865.

On the rolls of the Connecticut Light Battery, the only name from Norwich is that of Alfred P. Rockwell, Captain of the 1st C. L. B. This company landed at Beaufort in February, 1862, and was stationed for two years at points of hazard and responsibility on the coast, co-operating in the siege of Charleston. It was afterward attached to Butler's command in the advance to Richmond. Capt. Rockwell was then transferred to the infantry service, and appointed Colonel of the 6th C. V.

The two regiments of Heavy Artillery were organized out of the 4th and 19th regiments of Infantry. The change of the 4th to 1st H. A. was effected in January, 1862. Henry W. Birge, Major of the 4th, was soon transferred to the 13th Infantry as its Colonel. Several of the lieutenants of the 1st Artillery were from Norwich. Lieut. Edwin L. Tyler entered this regiment, but was transferred to the staff of General Tyler. Lieut. Bela P. Learned retained his connection with the regiment to the close of the war, having performed likewise for nearly two years various complicated duties as a field officer on the staff of General Abbott. He left the army with the rank of Captain and brevet Major.\*

Of the recruits raised by Norwich during the later years of the war, 140 were assigned to the two regiments of Artillery. A fair proportion of these belonged to the town, and were good men and true, but many of the substitutes obtained abroad proved to be adepts in fraud and desperate deserters.†

The 29th C. V. consisted wholly of colored troops with white commissioned officers. This was raised in 1864, and sent to Annapolis, where it was joined to the Ninth Army Corps under General Burnside. Its roll numbered 1,005 officers and men, and it was regarded as a regiment of more than ordinary physical ability and moral excellence. The officers from Norwich were Captains David Torrance and Wm. J. Ross; Lieuts. M. L. Leonard, Edward P. Rogers, and Ch. H. Carpenter,—transferred to this regiment from the 18th, with advanced rank.

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\* "To Capt. Learned great credit is due for skillful and energetic performance of perplexing duties." Report of Gen. Abbott for 1864.

† The following item illustrative of the golden opportunity offered to a faithful substitute for making money, is from the Norwich Bulletin:

"On the 6th of August, 1864, James W. Needham, a Canadian, enlisted at the Provost-Marshal's office in this city, as a substitute. He entered the 14th Regiment, was not absent from duty a single day, and was discharged July 10, 1865. He received as bounty \$650, and as pay \$192.20. On the 29th of July he arrived in Norwich with the above sum in his pocket, less only \$1.50 paid for rations on the journey from Washington. He left for home a few days afterward."



The 29th obtained an honorable record for gallant conduct in the trenches before Petersburg, and for bravely facing the foe in several attacks upon the enemy's lines in the campaign of 1864. This regiment having been accepted as a part of the U. S. C. T., the officers were commissioned by the President.

A list of commissioned officers from Norwich in service during the war, compiled with care from official sources, gives the following result :

General officers, three, viz., Tyler, Birge, and Harland.

Colonels,	5	Adjutants,	8	Captains,	45
Lieut. Colonels,	7	Surgeons,	7	1st Lieutenants,	32
Majors,	8	Quartermasters,	4	2d " "	18
Total, 137. [Norwich Bulletin, Oct. 31, 1865.]					

The above list is not confined to citizens of Norwich deriving their appointment from the State. It includes several natives of Norwich who have removed to other parts of the Union, and residents of the town who have received appointments from other States; also several officers in colored regiments, or in other general service, commissioned by the United States.

It includes Major Thomas Maguire, Capts. Berry and Scott, and Lieut. Brennan, who went from Norwich and joined the 2d N. Y. Artillery ;

William T. Lusk, Lieut. in 79th N. Y. Vols. and A. A. G. on General Tyler's staff ;

Frank S. Bond, Major U. S. V., on Tyler's staff in the Army of the Cumberland, and on the staff of Rosecrans at Stone River, Chickamauga, and in the campaign against Price ;

Henry Case, Colonel 169th Illinois,\* and George R. Case, Captain La. Colored Troops,—both natives and former residents of Norwich ;

Douglas R. Bushnell, Major 13th Illinois, killed at Chattanooga ;

J. H. Piatt, of the Ohio Cavalry, Major by brevet U. S. A. ;

Lieut. Col. Calvin Goddard, of Cleveland, Ohio, aid to General Rosecrans ;

Captains Charles H. Rockwell and J. M. Huntington, U. S. V. ;

Capt. John L. Spalding, of the 18th Mass. Vols. ;

Lieut. P. Ludlow Hyde, 26th Iowa, killed at Arkansas post.

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\* Col. Henry Case is a son of Dea. Samuel Case of Norwich Town. He graduated at Yale College in 1846, and has been successively engaged in the three departments of law, divinity, and arms, besides running at one time as a popular candidate for a seat in Congress. He practiced law for several years in Ohio; was ordained in the First Congregational Church at Norwich, under the charge of Rev. Dr. Arms, July 31, 1855, and returned to the West as a Home Missionary; but when the war broke out, entered the army, and was with General Sherman in his grand march through the Confederacy.



These officers, though natives of the place, or of Norwich parentage, are not technically regarded as Connecticut volunteers. The officers from Norwich commissioned by the State were about 110, but these were not all in the service at the same time. Many of them were appointed as successors to the others.

It is not easy to determine the exact number of private soldiers or enlisted men that Norwich contributed from her actual population to the service of the country. The town had the raising of the quota under her own management from the commencement of the war to July, 1863, but after that period the recruiting business was conducted by the provost-marshal of the district. During the first two years, covering the original organization of the volunteer force of Connecticut, the enlistments were almost wholly of town residents, but after that period they were principally substitutes and hired recruits.

The following statements are supposed to be nearly accurate :

For the three months service Norwich furnished 12 commissioned officers and 136 enlisted men.

For the 1st Cavalry and 1st Artillery regiments, 10 officers and 32 enlisted men.

For the three years Infantry service, in the regiments from the 5th to the 21st inclusive, 528 enlisted men.

For the 26th regiment, nine months service, 126 enlisted men.

Re-enlistment of veterans, 127.

Hired recruits and substitutes procured in 1863 and '64, probably about 280.\*

Colored men, volunteers and substitutes, 60.

Volunteers, or substitutes for enrolled men, mustered into the navy, from Norwich, 89.

These 89 seamen were taken up at different places, but credited to the town. Several of them enlisting as volunteers, received honorable appointments as clerks and paymasters, and others as commanding officers. In 1863, Warrington D. Roath and Robert B. Smith, volunteer lieutenants from Norwich, were in command,—the former of the *Bignonia* and the latter of the *Nita*, armed vessels of the fourth rate. Lewis G. Cook was acting master of the gunboat *Octorora*, 11 guns.

John W. Bentley, Acting Master U. S. N., died at his residence in Norwich, May 27, 1864. He received an appointment in the navy soon after the war commenced, and had been for three years in active service. At the capture of Port Royal, he was in the *Wabash*, which was attached

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\* Among the recruits enlisted at Norwich, under date of Feb. 1, 1864, are the following singular names : Kannoris Blosopolos and Michael Zamphiropolos. These were men from some remote part of Canada. They were assigned to the 13th Regiment, and the last-named appears on the list of wounded at Cedar Creek, Va., Oct. 19, 1864.



to Dupont's command. He had just been placed in command of the *Banshee*, a captured blockade-runner, and was preparing to put to sea, when seized with his last illness, which in one week ended in death.

Commodore Joseph Lanman, of the regular naval service, is a native of Norwich. His original entry has the date of Feb. 1, 1826, which gives him forty years of naval experience. Twenty-four years of this term is credited to him as sea-service; the remainder occupied in shore duty or unemployed. He is now in command of the *Minnesota*, screw-steamer, 52 guns.

The Soldiers' Aid Association of Norwich, embodying the gifts and labors of the feminine portion of the community, displayed an amount of volunteer contribution, both of funds and labor, truly munificent. The patriotism and self-denial which prompted these efforts never slackened, but carried them forward from year to year, with persevering energy, while the war continued. It was not so much in the character of Elizabeth Frys or Florence Nightingales that this zeal was exhibited,—not particularly in visits to battle-fields and hospitals, as inspectors, assistants, and nurses, though instances of such benevolent action were not wholly wanting,\* but rather in making garments, preparing grateful food, medicines, comforts and delicacies, corresponding and giving judicious counsels and cheering words, and in collecting books, papers, and a variety of refreshments to add to the well-being of the soldier.

Such associations occupy the place of the Angel of Mercy, following the track of the Demon of War, and repairing in part his ravages. It is thus that families at home co-operate with soldiers in the field, and woman performs her part in sustaining the Union and delivering the oppressed.

The ladies of the Soldiers' Aid dissolved their Association in January, 1866.

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The news of the surrender by General Lee of the grand Confederate Army reached Norwich at an early hour, Monday morning, April 10, 1865. At day-break, by order of the Mayor, guns were fired and the bells rung to spread the tidings abroad. It was a day of great rejoicing. People met in the streets with hearty greetings and congratulations. Nothing was left of the Confederacy but the army of Johnston and the

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\* During the whole war, Dr. Claudius B. Webster and Mrs. Webster, from Norwich, gave their personal services to the sick and wounded soldiers of the Union army; either stationed at hospitals, or following in the rear of a marching army. Dr. Webster was an agent of the Sanitary Commission, and a part of the time agent for the Connecticut regiments in the Department of the Cumberland.



resistance of Mobile and Texas, and these were involved in the great surrender. The war was therefore suddenly at an end. Victory, union, peace and thanksgiving were now the glorious pass-words.

At 12 o'clock an impromptu jubilee-meeting was held in Breed Hall, and the great event celebrated—not with tumult and noise, but with earnest expressions of gratitude and praise. Cheering addresses were made, prayers offered, and hymns chanted and sung.\* It was a day of triumph for the prospect of a restored Union, and of joyful hope for an emancipated race.†

This exulting scene was destined to be followed by a speedy and terrible revulsion. At this period great events are crowded together in the history of our country. On Friday, April 14, the fourth anniversary of the surrender of Fort Sumter to the Confederates, President Lincoln was assassinated. The news was received here, as elsewhere, with amazement, horror, and indignation, succeeded by the bitter agony of grief. Business for a time almost ceased, and a scene of universal mourning was exhibited. Governor Buckingham, Senator Foster, and several other citizens immediately repaired to Washington. Mr. Foster, in virtue of his office as President, *pro. tem.*, of the Senate, became the nominal Vice-President of the United States, and in case of the death of Mr. Johnson, President, until another could be chosen.

Wednesday, the 19th, was the day of the Funeral Services in Washington, and religious solemnities were held in accordance with them through the Union. At Norwich the bells were tolled, and guns fired every half hour; flags lowered and banded with crape; many private houses, and all public places, draped in mourning. At 12 o'clock, manufactories, work-shops, and places of business were closed, and the churches opened for devotional exercises. The next Sunday, discourses adapted to the event were delivered in churches hung with heavy drapery, and listened to with that profound emotion which is usually excited only by personal bereavement.

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At the celebration of the 4th of July, 1865, the returned soldiers were regarded with special interest. They were a distinguishing feature that separated the 89th anniversary from all other commemorations of the day in Norwich. Generals Birge and Harland, natives of the town, were present. Groups of officers and veterans, that had served in various reg-

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\* The whole congregation joined in singing "*Coronation*" and "*America*."

† Jan. 2, 1863, by order of the Mayor, 100 guns were fired, and the church bells in the city rung for an hour, in honor of the President's Proclamation of Emancipation to the slaves in the seceding States.



iments, some of them from other towns, appeared in the procession. The storm-flag that had been used in the assault upon Port Hudson was borne through the streets. The 18th regiment having been recently mustered out of service, the companies belonging to Norwich returned home just in time to take part in these festivities. Lieut. Col. Peale, with about one hundred of his soldiery, arranged under their respective officers, formed an interesting part of the line. They bore with them their regimental standard, but after reaching the Plain, the Mayor of the City presented to Col. Peale the original flag, under which they were mustered three years before. This flag, when more than half the regiment was captured at Winchester, was torn from its staff by the standard-bearer, and concealed under his uniform until he was safe from pursuit.\*

In the long procession at this time were several carriages occupied by a band of venerable citizens of the place, aged 70 and upwards—

*Veterans of the War of 1812.†*

Another unique feature of the celebration was the appearance in the line of several Fenian Circles, from this and the neighboring towns. It was the first time that these organized bands had appeared in this vicinity in a public procession with distinctive badges.

There seemed to be no special point of time at which the war closed. Opposition ceased; the sounds of strife died away, and the discharged soldiers began to return. They were every where received with acclamations, and banquets were spread before them. There was weeping over widows and orphans, but generous applause for the men of a hundred battles.

It was a pleasant circumstance that the disbanded soldiery returned quietly to their old homes and pursuits, resuming, in most cases, their accustomed avocations, as if only a week, or a month, had intervened. The farmer returned to his field, the operative went back to his factory, the mechanic to his trade; mercantile clerks, agents, and assistants in banks

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\* Sergt. George Torrey, of North Woodstock, was the gallant soldier that saved the State Color of the 18th regiment, at Winchester, by wrapping it around his person, and escaping to our lines.—*Conn. War Rec.*, p. 23.

† Names and ages of eighteen veterans of the War of 1812, who were in the procession July 4, 1865, and formed themselves into an association to meet annually, choosing General Williams for their President :

Isaac Bromley, 74.	Charles Gale, 69.	Elisha Mansfield, 70.
Samuel Case, 74.	Lewis Hyde, 72.	John Nichols, 80.
Dr. Eleazar Downing, 78.	Capt. Wm. Kelly, 81.	John Starkweather, 75.
Eber Edwards, 74.	James Rose Ledyard, 74.	Joseph Tyler, 73.
Benjamin Ford, 73.	Frederick Lester, 72.	Gen. Wm. Williams, 77.
Othniel Gager, 71.	Asa Manning, 70.	Elkanah Williams, 82.



and insurance offices, returned to their desks, and were re-invested with their former responsibilities. In special instances, the General might be seen again busy with his law-books, the Colonel and the Captain again teaching school.\*

When the war commenced, General Birge was one of the Governor's Aids, and was actively engaged in raising and sending forth the three months men. He entered the service in June, 1861, and in September, 1863, received the appointment of Brigadier-General of Volunteers, in acknowledgment of his gallantry at the siege of Port Hudson. The next year he was breveted Major-General for services in Sheridan's campaign in the Shenandoah Valley, and in June, 1865, was appointed to the command of the Military District of Savannah.

Gen. Banks, in his report of the Red River expedition, alluding to the Cane River fight, says—

“General Birge, as in all actions in which he has been engaged, deserved and received the highest commendation.”

General Harland entered into the service upon the first call of the country, and rose rapidly through the degrees of Captain and Colonel, to the command of a division at Antietam. He was then appointed Brigadier-General, and stationed in the Military District of North Carolina. His last fight was at Kinston, in that State, where he commanded a division under General Scholfield, in the repulse of the Confederate forces under General Bragg, in March, 1865.

General Harland, Lieut. Colonels Peale and Hale, Captains Lilly, McCord, Merwin, Moore, Parker, Ross, Tiffany, and other officers and soldiers that were engaged in the first expedition of 1861, have the satisfaction, not only of seeing the war through, but of having been a part of it from the beginning to the end.

Brig. Gen. Tyler resigned his command in 1864, and about the same time removed from Norwich to Red Bank, in New Jersey.

Col. Wm. T. Aiken, of Norwich, held the office of Quartermaster General of the State troops during the war.†

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\*An amusing illustration of this recurrence to former pursuits was furnished by Lieut. Sweet, who, before the war, excited quite a sensation by walking across the Shetucket on a rope, and after returning from service, in August, 1865, advertised that he would repeat the same exploit.

† Capt. Eleazar H. Ripley, of Windham, enlisted at Norwich in the company of Capt. Harland, in May, 1861; went out again in the 8th regiment, and lost his left arm in battle, but was promoted Captain for meritorious service, and continued in the army till it was disbanded.

## CHAPTER LII.

### NECROLOGY OF THE WAR IN RELATION TO NORWICH.

Alphabetical list of soldiers that fell in battle, or died of casualties and disease, consequent upon the war :

*William R. Allyn*, aged 18, farmer, enlisted in 14th C. V., July, 1862 ; died March 9, 1863. (8 m. in service.)\*

*Alexander S. Avery*, sergeant 5th C. V., killed in battle at Cedar Mountain, Aug. 9, 1862. (1 y. 18 d.)

*Courtland C. Avery*, corporal in Stanton's company, 26th C. V., died of fever near Port Hudson, June 24, 1863, aged about 30. He was a son of Alfred Avery, of Scotland, Ct., but for many years a resident in Norwich.

*Frederick W. Baker*, 1st Conn. Cavalry, enlisted Jan. 12, and died Jan. 27, 1864 ; 15 days in the service.

*Charles H. Beckwith*, book-binder ; served in the three months campaign ; enlisted again in the 18th C. V., and died Dec. 1, 1862, aged 22. (7 m.)

*Henry M. Beckwith*, 1st Artillery, died in hospital, near Alexandria, Oct. 10, 1863. (1 y. 5 m.)

*Herbert E. Beckwith*, clerk, 18 years of age, son of Elisha V. Beckwith, of Norwich ; served 18 months in 10th C. V., and subsequently as corporal in 2d Mass. Heavy Artillery. He was taken prisoner at Plymouth, N. C., confined 8 months at Andersonville, Ga., and Florence, Ala., where he suffered severely from the want of food and clothing—was paroled in an exhausted, dying condition, and landed at Annapolis, where he rallied a little at sight of the Union flag, but died six days afterward, Dec. 30, 1864, aged 21. At Andersonville, in that loathsome abode of lingering torture, this young man wrote in his diary, "At times, I fancy I hear the church bells in Norwich."

*William A. Berry*, a young Englishman that had recently settled at Greeneville, aged about 22. He was one of the first to enlist in Capt.

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\* The terms of service, in this chapter, are not always precisely accurate, but are given as near estimates of the time.



Frank Chester's company of the Buckingham Rifles, the first company raised in Norwich, and was commissioned 2d Lieutenant. He joined afterward Capt. Maguire's company of the 2d N. Y. Light Artillery. This regiment was long on garrison duty at Washington, where Lieut. Berry was promoted Captain. He was killed near Petersburg, June 5, 1864, and buried on the battle-field; but his remains were afterward brought to Norwich, in charge of his comrade in arms, Capt. Thomas Scott, and interred in Yantic Cemetery, Nov. 3, 1864. A gallant soldier, faithful to his adopted country. (3 y. 2 m.)

*John Best*, of Greeneville, 2d Conn. Heavy Artillery, enlisted recruit, Dec. 30, 1863; killed near Petersburg.

*David Black*, aged 38, 13th C. V.; killed at Georgia Landing, La., Oct. 27, 1862. (10 m.)

*Edward Blomley*, of Greeneville, 8th C. V.; captured in an engagement upon the Petersburg R. R., May 7, 1864, and died at Andersonville, Oct. 3, aged 39. A re-enlisted veteran.

*Lemuel Bolman*, farmer, aged 44, 12th C. V., died Aug. 22, 1863. (1 y. 8 m.)

*Henry A. Bottomly*, manufacturer at Yantic; corporal in the company of Capt. Dennis, 7th C. V. He had re-enlisted as a veteran, and died during his veteran furlough, while on a visit with his family near Boston, March 13, 1864, aged 34,—of disease contracted in the service. He was brought to Norwich and interred in Yantic Cemetery.

*John T. Bradley*, aged 19, corporal 18th C. V., killed at Piedmont, June 5, 1864. (1 y. 10 m.)

*Charles A. Breed*, Lieutenant in Capt. Ward's company, 8th C. V. He died at Newport News, of typhoid fever, July 30, 1862. At the time of his death he was detailed for duty on the Signal Corps of Burnside's division. His remains were brought home in charge of his friend, Lieut. Wait, and the funeral services were held at the 2d Congregational Church, Aug. 2d. Lieut. Breed had served in the 3d regiment for three months, enlisted again for three years, and had been engaged in battle at Roanoke and Newbern. The Common Council and the City Guards attended his funeral with every mark of respect, and the officers of the 8th regiment bore testimony to his patriotism and social virtues, and sent their condolence to "his widowed mother who had given two sons to sustain the cause of constitutional liberty."

*Henry Brooks*, gardener, aged 44, a native of Three Rivers, Canada East, but for a number of years resident in Norwich; enlisted in 26th C. V., died July 3, 1863, in hospital, of wounds received in the first charge upon Port Hudson, May 27th.

*Daniel H. Brown*, mechanic, aged 43, 9th C. V., died at New Orleans, May 14, 1862. (7 m.)



*David H. Brown*, farmer, aged 23, 13th C. V., died May 15, 1864. A re-enlisted veteran.

*Charles E. Burdick*, 10th C. V., son of Evan Burdick, architect, died in the hospital at Newbern, N. C., Jan. 16, 1863, aged 19. (1 y. 3 m.)

*Horatio Burdick*, of Greeneville, aged 30, 18th C. V., died at Fort McHenry, Baltimore, Oct. 19, 1862. (3 m.)

*Theodore Burdick*, 1st Lieutenant 7th C. V.; commissioned Captain, July 1, 1862; killed in action at Morris Island, July 11, 1863, aged 25. (1 y. 10 m.)

*Albert Burnett*, mechanic, aged 24, 18th C. V., killed at Winchester, June 14, 1863. (10 m.)

*Daniel Carney*, operative, of Greeneville, aged 18, 18th C. V., killed at Snicker's Ferry, July 18, 1864. (2 y.)

*Michael Carver*, teamster, aged 18, corporal 1st Conn. Cavalry, killed while on picket duty at Stafford Court House, Va., January 3, 1863. (1 y. 2 m.)

*David C. Case*, son of Deacon Samuel Case, of Norwich Town, 3d C. V., killed at Bull Run by a cannon-ball, and died in an hour, July 21, 1861, aged 26. He was the first soldier from Norwich killed in the war of the rebellion.

*Henry F. Champlin*, 10th C. V., captured while on picket duty near St. Augustine, Fla., died at Andersonville, Aug. 11, 1864, aged 21. This young man was brought home with the Norwich dead, and interred with them in Yantic Cemetery, but enlisted at Sprague.

*Giles D. Chapman*, farmer, aged 41, 26th C. V. He was sick when the regiment left Port Hudson, and died soon after reaching home, Aug. 19, 1863.

*Alfred S. Chappell*, 18th C. V., carpenter, aged 37, died Sept. 17, 1863. (1 y. 2 m.)

*Michael Corbett*, mechanic, aged 25, 13th C. V., died of wounds and disease, May 25, 1863. (1 y. 5 m.)

*John Crawford*, of Greeneville, aged 23, 18th C. V., a young man of estimable character, who died of wounds, at Winchester, July 2, 1863. (1 y.)

*Byron Crocker*, aged 18, 13th C. V., son of late Thomas Crocker, of Norwich. He was one of the party that volunteered to storm the fortifications at Port Hudson with Gen. Birge, and died of wounds received, at Georgia Landing, July 15, 1864. (2½ y.)

*John Cullen*, 21st C. V., died in hospital at Newbern, March 22, 1864, aged 38. (1 y. 8 m.)

*Enoch Benjamin Culver*, 18th C. V., a native of New York, but for several years a resident in Norwich. While the regiment was encamped at Baltimore, he was detailed and employed as a clerk at Gen. Schenck's



head-quarters, and was not with the regiment at the time of its defeat and capture at Winchester, but rejoined the remnant that escaped, at Harper's Ferry, and was promoted Lieutenant and Adjutant. He was mortally wounded at Piedmont, June 5, and died the next day, aged 21. His remains were subsequently recovered and transmitted to his parents in New York. (2 y. nearly.)

*Alonzo S. Cushman*, operative, aged 18, 11th C. V.; chosen corporal; mortally wounded at Swift Creek, Va., May 5, and died May 9, 1864. He had re-enlisted as a veteran.

*William Davis*, 1st Conn. Cavalry, captured at Craig's Church, Va., May 5, 1864, and died at Andersonville, Aug. 30, aged 42. (4 m.)

*William L. Davis*, carpenter, aged 21, 18th C. V., killed at Piedmont, Va., June 5, 1864. (1 y. 10 m.)

*John Delany*, of Greeneville, paper-maker, aged 18, 18th C. V., killed at Snicker's Ferry, Va., July 18, 1864. (2 y.)

*Edward Dorey*, operative, aged 26, 14th C. V.; chosen corporal; died of wounds received at Antietam, Oct. 8, 1862. ( $3\frac{1}{2}$  m.)

*Sylvanus Downer*, 18th C. V. He had been Chief Engineer of the Fire Department in Norwich, was captured at Winchester, exchanged, rejoined his regiment, and was promoted color-sergeant. Afterward wounded at Piedmont, he was taken prisoner a second time, and died at Andersonville, Nov. 5, 1864, aged 44. (2 y. 3 m.)

*James Dugan*, machinist, aged 19, 26th C. V., wounded in the hand at Port Hudson, and died of disease on board the steamer, in returning home, July 28, 1863.

*Thomas Dugan*, 21st C. V.; enlisted in August, 1862, and died at Andersonville.

*George F. Edgerton*, aged 35, 26th C. V., died at Port Hudson, July 23, 1863; brought home and interred.

*Charles Tracy Fanning*, clerk, aged 18, 18th C. V., mortally wounded at Piedmont, June 5, 1864. Remains interred at Norwich, Oct. 18, 1865. (1 y. 10 m.)

*Henry C. Fanning*, aged 18, 8th C. V., died Oct. 28, 1862, of wounds received at Sharpsburg, Md. (13 m.)

*Theodore A. Fanning*, painter, aged 24, 8th C. V., died of wounds received at Sharpsburg, Md., Oct. 19, 1862.

*Thomas Fillburne*, stone-layer, aged 25, 7th C. V., killed at Drury's Bluff, Va., May 16, 1864. ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  y.)

*David M. Ford*, of Greeneville, aged 20, 11th C. V., killed at Sharpsburg, Md., Sept. 17, 1862. (10 m.)

*Joseph Forstner*, aged 37, corporal in Capt. Peale's company, 18th C. V., died Aug. 9, 1863. (1 y.)

*Walter M. Fox*, 2d Artillery, killed at Petersburg, June 22, 1864. (5 m.)



*Henry C. Gaskell*, aged 33, son of Benjamin Gaskell, of Greeneville, 18th C. V. He was wounded at Piedmont, taken prisoner near Winchester, and kept long in barbarous captivity. When at length released, he was so reduced by exposure and starvation, that he died while *en route* to be exchanged at Danville, Va., Feb. 20, 1865. (2 y.)

*Alfred M. Goddard*, Lieutenant 8th C. V., son of the late L. H. Goddard, of Norwich, a young man of distinguished enterprise, superior natural endowments, and winning manners. He had been for several years at the Sandwich Islands, engaged as a commercial agent, participating in many varied pursuits, amid different races of men, and diversities of climate. He had traversed the Pacific Ocean from the Arctic to the Antarctic latitudes; had tarried for months at a time on the desolate island of McKean, with no companions but a few workmen and sailors; had visited Mauritius, and taken the East Indian route homeward, by the Red Sea and Europe. Having closed his agency at the Islands, he came home for the last time in May, 1863, and entered the army in July. He was employed for several months on the staff of General Harland, but joined his regiment at the siege of Petersburg, and was mortally wounded in the battle of May 7, 1864. This was Lieut. Goddard's first regular engagement, but his conduct was that of a veteran. While gallantly leading on his men, near the close of a day of hard fighting, he was struck to the ground, and though carefully taken from the field, and removed the next day to Fortress Monroe, where he received every attention that surgical skill and kindness could bestow, he died May 9th. He was 27 years of age; a short life in years, but long if measured by personal worth, duties performed, and the experience of changing scenes and adventures. His generous disposition, manly bearing, lively and affable manners, had particularly endeared him to his friends. Even when a boy, as son and brother, he had acted the part of a man, and the sacrifice of his young life fell like a heavy blow upon the hearts at home. (9½ m.)

*William H. Hamilton*, student, aged 18, 18th C. V., killed at Piedmont, June 5, 1864, nearly 2 years in service. (1 y. 10 m.)

*William G. Hayward*, mechanic, 18th C. V., captured at Winchester, was exchanged and rejoined his regiment; captured again at Newmarket, Va., May 15, 1864, and died at Andersonville, Sept. 8, 1864, aged 34. (2 y. 1 m.)

*John C. Holwell*, aged 40, 11th C. V., killed at Sharpsburg, Sept. 17, 1862. (10 m.)

*Thomas D. Huntington*, son of Benjamin Huntington, of Norwich Town, aged 19, 8th C. V.; enlisted Sept. 21, and went into camp at Hartford, was taken sick, returned home, and died Sept. 29, 1861, 8 days after being mustered into service.

*William Hutchins*, aged 20, 11th C. V., died June 14, 1862. (7 m.)



*Hervey F. Jacobs*, book-keeper, 2d Lieutenant, 26th C. V. Lieutenant Jacobs had resided about eight years in Norwich, in the family of his relative, L. W. Carroll, Esq. He was well educated, and at the opening of the war was preparing to enter into business with flattering prospects. Patriotism and a high sense of duty carried him into the army. In the second assault upon Port Hudson, June 14, 1863, he was detailed to the command of a company, and while leading on his men, was fatally wounded by the explosion of a 12-pounder spherical case shot (or shell) fired by the enemy. The same shot killed four men outright, and wounded sixteen others. He died of his wounds in the hospital at Baton Rouge, La., July 5,\* aged 24.

A companion who was with Lieut. Jacobs on the field of battle, says, "When that dreadful shell came which killed and disabled twenty men, including himself, he was cheering and encouraging his men, and pressing forward with the assurance of success. After he was wounded, the noble spirit that animated him was manifested by his refusing to be taken to the rear, until all the wounded about him had been removed.† \*

*Marquis L. Johnson*, mechanic, aged 39, 13th C. V., enlisted in January, 1862, was discharged in July, on account of infirm health, and died at sea, on his way home. (6 m.)

*Stephen T. Johnson*, aged 39, 26th C. V., died in the hospital at Mound City, Ill., Aug. 3, 1863.

*Thomas F. Jones*, enlisted recruit, 18th C. V., killed at Winchester, June 15, 1863. (1 m.)

*James Kennely*, 10th C. V. He enlisted as a recruit in January, 1864, and was killed at Petersburg the first of April. (2½ m.)

*John Kelly*, aged 18, enlisted recruit, 9th C. V., died July 24, 1862. (8 m.)

*John Kerr*, of Greeneville, aged 44, 18th C. V., wounded and taken prisoner at Winchester, exchanged, transferred to Invalid Corps, and died of disease contracted in the service.

*David Lacy*, 2d Artillery, enlisted recruit, killed at Cold Harbor, Va., June 1, 1864. (4 m.)

*Daniel Laird*, student, aged 18, 13th C. V., killed at Winchester, Sept. 19, 1864. (2 y. 7 m.)

*De Witt C. Lathrop*, physician, aged 42. Appointed 1st Assistant Surgeon 8th C. V. Died at Newbern, April 18, 1862, a victim to over exer-

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\* In the same hospital, two days later, died his brother, Wyman D. Jacobs, of the 50th Mass. regiment, aged 21. They were sons of Joseph E. Jacobs, of Thompson, Ct.

† A discourse in memory of Lieut. Jacobs was preached in the Central Baptist Church, after the remains were brought home, Nov. 1, 1863, by Rev. Samuel Graves, pastor of the church.



tion and extreme anxiety for the wounded men under his care. He was a man of great moral and professional worth, and his death was a heavy loss to the service, as well as to his family, and the community at home. His remains were interred at Windham, where most of his professional life had been passed, and where a monument, erected by the members of his regiment, testifies to the affectionate esteem in which he was held by his comrades. (6½ m.)

*Patrick Lloyd*, iron-worker, aged 25, 14th C. V., killed at Spotsylvania, May 11, 1864. (1 y. 10 m.)

*Henry N. Loomis*, seaman, aged 18, 21st C. V., mortally wounded Aug. 19, 1864. (2 y.)

*Edward P. Manning*, Commissary Sergeant and 2d Lieutenant 26th C. V., a young man of unblemished character, a member of the Baptist Church, and one of whom his companions said, "He carried his religion with him into the army, and was as ready to fight under the banner of the Cross, as under the flag of his country." He served out the time of his enlistment, constantly on duty, acting at different times as Commissary, Quartermaster, Adjutant and Lieutenant, came home with his regiment, and died on the day it was mustered out of service, aged 28. Funeral services were held in Norwich, but the interment was at Putnam, where his parents reside.

*Patrick Maro*, mechanic, aged 18, 10th C. V., killed at Newbern, N. C., March 14, 1862. (5½ m.)

*Islay B. Martin*, of Greeneville; student, aged 18, 18th C. V., a well-educated, promising youth, died of wounds received at Winchester, July 2, 1863. (11 m.)

*Ronald McAllister, Jr.*, of Greeneville, farmer, 11th C. V., killed at Cold Harbor, Va., June 3, 1864. (His father, of the same name, served 14 months in the same regiment.) (2 y. 7 m.)

*John McCall*, of Yantic village, aged 25, enlisted as a private in 8th C. V., Sept. 21, 1861; was chosen sergeant, and in Feb., 1863, promoted to a captaincy. He was in the North Carolina campaign under Burnside; fought afterward at South Mountain, at Antietam, and in many other sanguinary engagements, always noted for bravery and skillful management. In his third year's experience of marchings, fightings, wounds, and captivity, he was killed at Drury's Bluff, May 16, 1864.

*James McCracken*, of Greeneville, boiler-maker, aged 28, 18th C. V., killed at Winchester, June 15, 1863. (10½ m.)

*James S. McDavid*, 1st Conn. Cavalry, captured at Ashland station, June 1, 1864, and died at Andersonville, Aug. 21, aged 17 y., 9 m., 20 d. (7½ m.)

*William McKnight*, 12th C. V., died at Brashear City, La., Aug. 17, 1863. (1 y. 8½ m.)



*Thomas McMahon*, enlisted recruit, 18th C. V., killed at Piedmont, Va., June 5, 1864. (6½ m.)

*Gilbert McMahon*, 2d Conn. Artillery, killed at Piedmont, June 5, 1864. (5 m.)

*John McSooley*, shoe-maker, aged 35, 9th C. V., died April 18, 1863. (1 y. 6 m.)

*James Mc Vay*, laborer, aged 43, 14th C. V., fell out of the ranks in the march to Antietam, and died of exhaustion, Sept. 9, 1862. Less than 2 months in service.

*John Meany*, laborer, aged 35, 9th C. V., died Nov. 12, 1862. (13½ m.)

*Charles Meisser*, a German, aged 24, 6th C. V., killed at Morris Island, July 18, 1863. (1 y. 9½ m.)

*Jacob W. Miller, Jr.*, son of J. W. Miller, of Norwich Town, aged 16, enlisted soon after the war commenced, in the 51st N. Y. V., which was recruited in New York City. He was with his regiment in the North Carolina campaign under Burnside; in the army of the Potomac at South Mountain and Antietam; in Grant's army at Vicksburg, and in the advance to Richmond through the Wilderness. "In the conflict near Spotsylvania, May 18, 1864, while in front of the fight, he was shot through the heart, and as his commanding officer wrote to his friends, died with his face to the enemy while advancing on their work. He had never been absent an hour from his post during his connection with the army, and was buried on the battle-field."\*

*James Morningham*, laborer, aged 33, 9th C. V., died July 21, 1862. (10 m.)

*Oramel M. Mott*, farmer, aged 18, 11th C. V.; chosen corporal; re-enlisted veteran in January, 1864, and was killed near Petersburg the following May. (2 y. 8 m.)

*Peter Mulligan*, operative, aged 44, 26th C. V. He returned with his regiment from Port Hudson, but in a sickly condition, and died before he was mustered out of service.

*James Murphy*, laborer, aged 19, 9th C. V., died August 16, 1862. (10 m.)

*Dennis Murphy*, laborer, 21st C. V., died March 12, 1864. (1 y. 7 m.)

*James R. Nickels*, a native of Maine, who had resided several years in Norwich, employed as a clerk. He served in Capt. Harland's company of three months men; enlisted again as a private in the 14th regiment, May, 1862; was chosen sergeant, and by successive promotions, made Captain before he was 21 years of age. He fought at Antietam, at Fredericksburg, at Chancellorsville, and in innumerable other less noted en-

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\* Norwich Aurora.



gements ; passed unhurt through the terrible battles of the Wilderness and Spotsylvania ; led the regiment in a brilliant charge at Cold Harbor, for which he was complimented by the commanding officer, and served in front of Petersburg, till Aug. 27, 1864, when, in the sanguinary struggle at Ream's Station, he was wounded, and left by the retreating army on the field of battle. Here he was stripped by the rebels and left to die, but during the night, the adjutant of his regiment found him, and procured his removal to the lines. He languished for six months, was several times thought out of danger, but his constitution was broken down, and he died in hospital at Washington, D. C., Feb. 20, 1865, aged 22. A pure-minded patriot, and as a soldier, intrepid and brave. The manly fortitude and cheerfulness with which he bore his long confinement, equaled in heroic endurance his conduct on the battle-field.

*Joseph H. Nickerson*, sergeant 11th C. V. ; promoted Captain, Aug. 6, 1863. After participating in many hard-fought battles, and coming home with his regiment on their veteran furlough, his health failed, and he resigned in October, 1864. He was afterward appointed to office in the Provost-Marshal's Department, but died May 15, 1865, aged 23. He was honored with a military funeral, six discharged officers officiating as pall-bearers, and the Common Council attending in a body. (3 y.)

*Charles C. Noyes*, student, aged 20, 18th C. V., wounded at Winchester, and died June 15, 1863. A young man of promising talents and correct deportment, the only child of his parents. Such bereavements show the intense cruelty of war.

*William T. V. Osborne*, a conscript from Norwich, who died at the Knight Hospital in New Haven, Sept. 2, 1863. Brought home for interment.

*Josiah L. D. Otis*, physician, aged 41, enlisted in 14th C. V., company of Capt. J. B. Coit ; wounded at Fredericksburg, and died, after extreme suffering, at a hospital in Washington, Feb. 10, 1863. (6½ m.)

*James Parkerson*, fireman, aged 27, 26th C. V., mortally wounded at Port Hudson, May 27, and died June 1, 1863. (9 m.)

*Charles H. Potter*, machinist, aged 24, 9th C. V., died Aug. 10, 1862, at Baton Rouge, La. (9 m.)

*William Reynolds*, aged 18, sergeant 13th C. V., mortally wounded at Cane River Creek, April 23, 1864. A veteran. (2 y. 4 m.)

*Frederick E. Schalk*, aged 24. He served as a private soldier in the 3d regiment, and as sergeant and lieutenant in the 14th. In one of the sharp engagements in the early part of 1864, when the army was advancing into Virginia, he was severely wounded, and died in the hospital at Fredericksburg, May 6, 1864. The funeral services were held at Norwich, but he was interred at Lebanon, his native place, the Norwich



Light Infantry escorting the remains thither, and firing a parting volley over his grave.\*

*Henry M. Scholfield*, a promising young man who enlisted in the 1st C. V., April 22, 1861, and afterward entered the 14th regiment. He died of wounds received at Antietam, Sept. 28, 1862.

*John Shea*, 13th C. V., died July 18, 1863. (1 y. 6 m.)

*William M. Sherman*, sergeant 26th C. V., died June 28, 1863, in hospital at New Orleans, of wounds received at Port Hudson, aged 25 years and 9 months. Funeral services at the Free Church, Norwich.

*John Simpson*, sergeant 9th C. V., aged 27, died at New Orleans, Oct. 9, 1862. (1 y.)

*James Souter*, of Greeneville, clerk, aged 20, 11th C. V., killed at Cold Harbor, Va., June 3, 1864. (2 y. 7 m.)

*John L. Stanton*, Captain Co. G, 26th C. V. A gallant soldier, killed in the first terrific assault upon Port Hudson, May 27, 1863, aged 44.

*Myron W. Sterrett*, aged 20, 26th C. V., missing after the attack upon Port Hudson, and never heard from afterward.

*Joseph Stokes*, 2d C. V., died in hospital, July 25, 1861.

*Francis W. Taylor*, manufacturer, aged 55, 18th C. V., severely wounded at Piedmont, June 5, 1864, died at Annapolis, Md., March 28, 1865, aged 57. (2 y. 8 m.)

*Nelson C. Thompson*, operative, aged 21, 18th C. V., died June 30, 1863, of wounds received at Winchester. (11 m.)

*Eugene Tilden*, enlisted in 1st Conn. Artillery, March 20, 1862, served through the Peninsula campaign, was discharged on account of disability in January, 1863, returned home, and died at his father's, April 23, aged 20.

*Edward F. Tisdale*, aged 15, enlisted Nov., 1861, 9th C. V.; discharged the next October on account of disability; enlisted in January, 1864, in 1st Conn. Cavalry; was captured after his horse had been shot under him, and died at Andersonville, Sept. 23, 1864, aged 18.

*Richard Tomlinson*, mechanic, aged 40, 26th C. V. Served till the regiment was mustered out, but died soon after reaching home, of disease contracted in the service.

*James Torrance*, aged 20, sergeant in the 3d C. V., and also in the 13th, killed in a charge at Port Hudson, May 24, 1863. He was a young man of distinguished bravery and moral worth, a native of Scotland, and brother of David Torrance, Colonel of the 29th (colored) regiment.

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\* The Norwich Light Infantry is a volunteer company of home guards, organized Feb. 17, 1862, consisting at first of 45 men, but increased to 60, S. R. Parlin, Captain. The company was accepted by the State as the nucleus of the 3d Regiment of State Militia, and Capt. Parlin commissioned by the Governor. The presence of this company has given additional interest to the mournful observances of many a soldier's funeral.

*William H. Town*, of Greeneville, mechanic, aged 29, 18th C. V., died in hospital at Sandy Hook, Md., March 28, 1864. (1 y. 8 m.)

*Joseph A. Tracy*, clerk, aged 18, enlisted as musician 18th C. V., wounded at Snicker's Ferry, July 18, 1864, and died in hospital at Sandy Hook, Md., Aug. 7, having been in the service two years to a day.

*John F. Treadway*, corporal 1st Conn. Cavalry, son of F. W. Treadway, of Norwich City. He enlisted at New Haven, Jan. 4, 1864, and died in captivity at Andersonville, Aug. 3.

*Moses Tyler*, aged 19, 14th C. V., captured at Morton's Ford, Feb. 7, and died in prison at Richmond, June 27, 1864. (1 y. 11 m.)

*Erastus Vergason*, farmer, aged 27, 10th C. V., killed at Roanoke Island, Feb. 8, 1862. (4 m.)

*Ferdinand Volkner*, carpenter, aged 36, 6th C. V., died Oct. 21, 1862. (13½ m.)

*Marvin Wait*, son of John T. Wait, Esq., and when the war commenced, a student in Union College, enlisted in the 8th C. V., Oct. 5, 1861. He was soon promoted to a Lieutenancy, and detached for service on the Signal Corps, in which capacity he was on duty in Burnside's flagship at the taking of Roanoke Island, and with General Parke at Fort Macon.

In the reduction of Fort Macon, April 26, 1862, signals were used with such complete success as to afford a vivid illustration of the value of a system of signs in certain contingencies of war.

Lieut. Andrews, of the 9th N. Y. V., and Lieut. Wait, occupied a station from which, by the aid of glasses, the movements of the enemy could be distinguished, and by signals from these officers the fire from the Union batteries was directed, rectified, and rendered accurate, with such effect that the fortress was soon surrendered.\* Messrs. Andrews and Wait were highly commended for their service on this occasion. Subsequently, by order of Col. Myer, chief officer of the Signal Department, a Signal Battle Flag, awarded to Lieut. Wait for gallantry and efficient service at Fort Macon, was sent to his father.

Lieut. Wait rejoined his regiment at Fredericksburg, and at Antietam led his company in the gallant charge over the river upon the fortified posts at Sharpsburg. Here the advancing troops were outflanked and exposed to a destructive cross-fire of cannon and musketry. The first brigade was soon swept away; the second, under Gen. Harland, to which the 8th Connecticut was attached, advanced to the rescue, but after fearful slaughter, was obliged also to retreat.

"Lieut. Wait fell at his post while urging on his men into that terrible storm of shot and shell."

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\* "After 12, M., every shot fired from our batteries, fell in or on the fort." At 4, P. M., the white flag appeared.—[Report of Lt. Andrews to the signal officer.]





Engraved by J.C. Buttre, New York.

*Marvin Wait.*

1st Lieut. 1st Regt. Conn. Vols.





"Just before he was wounded, he was seen closing up the ranks of his company and dressing them in line, as deliberately as though on dress parade."

Such is the testimony of his comrades who were with him in that terrible fight. Severely wounded and led to the rear, the fire from an advancing body of the enemy enfiladed the spot where he lay, and gave him his death wound.

Lieut. Wait wanted four months of being twenty years of age. He was an only son, and the centre of many fond anticipations. His coolness and self-possession in the midst of battle were remarkable in one so young. An officer to whose command he was temporarily attached while on the North Carolina coast, said of him, "I had the opportunity of seeing Lieut. Wait under three most galling fires of the enemy, and when others older, both in years and time of service, were shrinking, he stood to his post like a veteran." General Harland commended him, not only for bravery and honor, but for the earnestness and zeal with which he labored to prepare himself for his various duties as a member of the Signal Corps and as a line officer.

The funeral services were held at the 1st Congregational Church. Governor Buckingham, the Mayor and Common Council of the city, the field and line officers of the 26th regiment, the Norwich Light Infantry, and a great assemblage of citizens were in attendance.\*

*Frederick S. Ward*, aged 18, corporal 14th C. V., left mortally wounded on the field of battle at Fredericksburg, Dec. 13, 1862, sending by one of his comrades a last message of love and consolation to friends at home. This young man enlisted from Saybrook, and is credited on the quota of that town, but was a son of John B. Ward, late Treasurer of the Chelsea Savings Bank, Norwich.

*George W. Ward*, organist and music teacher, aged 26, 18th C. V. He was taken prisoner at Winchester, and confined successively at Bell Isle, Danville, and Andersonville, at which last station he died, Feb. 26, 1865, aged 29. His manly fortitude and genial temperament long sustained him, but continued hunger, confinement, and ill usage at length brought him to the grave, after he had been 21 months a prisoner. He had fine musical talents, was a steadfast patriot, and had many warm personal friends.

*Patrick Welden*, aged 34, sergeant 9th C. V., died at New Orleans, Aug. 14, 1862. (10 m.)

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\* The Portrait of Lieut. Wait appears in this work. He was the first commissioned officer from Norwich that fell in support of the Union cause. He had displayed signal ability and heroism for one so young and unaccustomed to military duty, and we have therefore given a more extended account of his short but meritorious service.

*Frank White*, carpenter, aged 28, 6th C. V., missing at Fort Wagner, July 18, 1863, and supposed killed. (1 y. 10 m.)

*Daniel Wilbur*, 18th C. V., accidentally shot while on guard duty, at Fort Howard, Md., January 5, 1863, aged 19. Interred at Norwich. (6 m.)

*James Williams*, of the Jackson Guards, Capt. Maguire, 2d N. Y. Artillery, died in camp, at Alexandria, of typhoid fever, in Feb., 1862. He was an old resident of Norwich, and one of the first who enlisted for the war. His remains were brought to Norwich and interred Feb. 16th.

*Joseph Winship*, clerk, aged 21, 18th C. V. He was left at Winchester after the battle of June 16, 1863, to look after the sick and wounded; was taken prisoner, sent to Richmond; transferred to Andersonville, Ga., and there died, April 5, 1864, aged 23 years and 6 months. He was an only child, and his death left the home of his parents desolate.

*John W. Wood*, operative, aged 23, 11th C. V., died from wounds received at Sharpsburg, Sept., 1862. (9 m.)

*Henry P. Yarrington*, aged 25, 14th C. V., died of wounds received at Antietam, Sept. 21, 1862. (3½ m.)

#### COLORED SOLDIERS.

*Job A. Davis*, 29th C. V., enlisted Jan. 2, 1864, died in October, 1865. Funeral services at the Eureka Lodge Room of Colored Free Masons, and the remains taken to Jewett City for interment.

*James Gillson*, 31st U. S. C. T., mustered Jan. 22, and died June 5, 1864.

*Chester H. Hallam*, 24th R. I. Artillery, mustered July 18, 1863, died May 4, 1864.\*

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The remains of nine Norwich soldiers, who died in dreary captivity, at Andersonville, Ga., were recovered and brought home in January, 1866. These were

Edward Blomley,	Sylvanus Downer,	Edward F. Tisdale,
Henry F. Champlin,	Wm. G. Hayward,	Geo. W. Ward,
William Davis,	James S. McDavid,	J. H. Winship.

The city authorities awarded to them a public funeral and a burial spot in Yantic Cemetery. The commemorative services were held in Breed Hall. The coffins, placed on a funeral car and covered with the American

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\* These were the only victims of the war, among the colored soldiers of the town, whose names the author has ascertained. Probably others should be added to the list.



flag, were borne in solemn procession, by friends and citizens, societies and soldiery, to the place prepared for their reception.

The number of fatherless children in town, made such by the war, is ninety-three. Some of them bear the names of *Banney, Bresnahan, Collins, Gleason, McGarry, McNamara, Munroe, O'Donnell, and Sanders*, showing that nine more names, at least, should be added to the foregoing list of the war's victims.

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NOTE.

In reviewing this work, as the last pages go to press, a few passages are observed that belong to the class of Errata—not printer's errors, but mistakes inadvertently made by the writer.

Such are the two following, which happily it is not too late to acknowledge and amend. P. 77, 18th line from the top, erase the sentence: "now deposited in the archives of the Bible Society." This is an error, the venerable book referred to being still in the possession of the Lathrop family. P. 527, 3d line from the bottom, the date of the Sabbath School should be 1816, and the place where it was first kept, *the brick school-house*.

The Memoir of Mrs. Harriet Winslow shows that the Sabbath School of the First Society had an interesting and auspicious commencement. Miss H. W. Lathrop, (afterward Mrs. Winslow, of the Cingalese Mission,) during a visit to New York, in March, 1816, witnessed the operation of the Sunday School institution in that city, and came home with the fire in her heart, which she spread among her friends and neighbors, and in the course of a few weeks, a prosperous school of the same kind was in operation in this Society.

Miss Lathrop and her friend, Miss M. Coit, were the first teachers. They began with a class of *seven*; on the 23d of June, they rejoiced over "two new scholars," and before the close of July, the whole number that had been gathered in was forty-seven. An interesting feature of the school was a class of colored women, under the teaching of Miss Thomas.

This school, and the one at the Landing, begun the previous year, had a common origin,—G. L. Perkins, and his associates in the work at Chelsea, having caught the inspiration, as Miss Lathrop did afterward, by visiting the Bethune Sunday Schools in New York. There was only this difference—in Mr. Mitchell's Society the first movers were young men, in that of Dr. Strong, young women.





## APPENDIX.

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IN the foregoing work, (p. 585,) some account is given of the Uncas Monument erected in the old Indian Cemetery, in 1842. The expense of this monument was borne by the ladies of Norwich. It was wrought of Quincy granite, at the Massachusetts State Prison, Charlestown, and coarsely cut, with the simple name of the Sachem engraved upon it, in large raised letters—the monument harmonizing in its structure with the stern and savage character it commemorated.

The direction and superintendence of the monument was committed by the ladies to G. L. Perkins, Esq., who addressed a circular letter to several distinguished antiquarians, requesting an expression of opinion in regard to the best mode of spelling the Sachem's name. Among the answers that he received were the following, which may be deemed worthy of preservation, not only on account of the distinction of the writers, but as exemplifying in one short name the confusion and uncertainty that exists in Indian orthography.

HARTFORD, August 17th, 1841.

G. L. PERKINS, Esq.,

*Dear Sir*:—Your note of the 14th inst., has been in my hands a day or two. I have, in the meantime, examined some of the old records and documents in the Secretary's office. The result is according to your own experience and observation, viz., that the name is spelt *variously*. In an original letter from the Rev. James Fitch, of Norwich, dated in 1675, it is written *Unkus*. In the records, it is generally written *Uncass*, sometimes *Uncasse*, and sometimes *k* is used instead of *c*. These variations do not materially affect the *sound*. The question of *spelling* is to be settled by those who *spell*. The Indians had nothing to do with it.

The signature of the original Sachem was the outline of a long necked bird, or something like it. Dr. Trumbull and Dr. Holmes both write the name *Uncas*, and this is probably as good authority as there is. The latter especially, is a remarkably correct antiquarian. The farther you go back, the greater *diversity* you will find. I am sorry that I can furnish you with nothing more decisive.

I am, with great regard,

Your friend and ob't serv't,

THOMAS DAY.

NEW HAVEN, August 17th, 1841.

DEAR SIR :

In reply to your letter of the 14th inst., I should say that the better way for you to adopt in engraving the name of the Indian Sachem on the monument, is to follow Dr. Trumbull, who uniformly wrote *Uncas*. Dr. Trumbull is *our historian*, and his orthography was probably adopted in consequence of the Doctor's finding *that* to be the most common.

Please to accept the respects of,

Sir, your ob't serv't,

NOAH WEBSTER.

G. L. PERKINS, Esq.

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NEW YORK, August 21st, 1841.

DEAR SIR :

Your favor of the 14th was received by me a few days ago, at Saratoga. I embrace the earliest moment after my return to the city, to reply ; and yet I can do you but small service touching the subject of your inquiry. You appear to be in possession of most of the different names which the early writers assigned to *Uncas* ; and your opinion is as good, if not better, than mine, as to the orthography that ought to be selected for the proposed monumental inscription.

You refer to a copy of a deed in which the chieftain's name is written, *On-kos*. It has been thus printed in several of the early chronicles.

In the earlier years of his career, after his acquaintance with the English Colonists he was sometimes called *Poquim*, or *Poquiam*, as well as *Uncas*. There were several ways of spelling that first name ; and I have now before me, in print, these variations, viz. : *Poquin*, *Poquim*, *Poquime*, *Poquiam*, *Poquoiam*. There is extant a document, or treaty, executed jointly by *Uncas* and *Miantonomoh*, on the 2d of September, 1638, to which the signature of the Mohegan Chief was affixed thus :—" *Poquiam*, alias *Unkas*." This last mode of spelling it—*Unkas*—was adopted by Gookin, and also by the Rev. Mr. Fitch, the first minister in Norwich, as you may see by a letter from Mr. Fitch to General Gookin, contained in vol. I, Mass. Historical Coll.

Hubbard, who, as you know, wrote very early, spells it *Uncas* ; so also does Cotton Mather in the *Magnalia Christi*.

This orthography has been followed by all, or nearly all, the later authors, Trumbull, Bancroft, and others.

You refer to the variations of the orthography found among the early writers, historians, journalists, &c., &c., among whom you particularize Winthrop, as having written the name differently at different times. Such, undoubtedly, was the fact in all the Colonies. The Indians themselves had no written language ; and the early writers, having no guides, noted down the names as best they could, from the sounds given by Indian articulation. The names, moreover, were often so long, so crooked, and so uncouth, that the writers were often puzzled at one time to remember how they had written them at another. Hence the almost inextricable confusion in the matter of spelling Indian names, both of persons and places. In this State, we are worse off than you are in New England, since we have to contend with the outlandish orthography *manufactured* by the Dutch, the French, and the English !



But I am writing quite too much. Were it in my power to obliterate all the written and printed records in which the name of Uncas appears, and create a simple orthography for it, I think I should write it ON-KOS. To my eye and ear, it looks and sounds like better *Indian* when written thus.

But under existing circumstances, I should accept the common orthography, and engrave it on the monument UNCAS.

Thus it is written in all our modern, and our best histories, and thus it will descend to posterity. I think it best, therefore, that the proposed inscription should conform to general usage.

I am, Sir,

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM L. STONE.

G. L. PERKINS, ESQ.

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The letter from Mr. Fitch to General Gookin, referred to by Col. Stone, was written from Norwich, Nov. 20, 1674, and contains the following interesting passage:

“Since God hath called me to labour in this work among the Indians near to me, where indeed are the most considerable number of any in this colony, the first of my time was spent upon the Indians at Moheek [Mohegan] where Unkas and his son and Wanuhö are sachems. These at first carried it teachably and tractably; until at length the sachems did discern that religion would not consist with a mere receiving of the word; and that practical religion will throw down their heathenish idols, and the sachems’ tyrannical monarchy, and then the sachems did not only go away but drew off their people, some by flatteries and others by threatenings; and they would not suffer them to give so much as an outward attendance to the ministry of the word of God. But at this time some few did show a willingness to attend. Therefore I began meetings with them about one year and a half since.”

“And he that is chief among them, whose name is Weebax, hath learned so much that he is willing and able in some degree to be helpful in teaching and prayer to the others, on the Lord’s day; and this Weebax is of such a blameless conversation that his worst enemies and haters of religion cannot but speak well of his conversation; and the same may be said concerning another, whose name is Tuhamon. The number of these Indians is now increased to above thirty.”





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## NORWICH NOTES AND SKETCHES,

FROM 1866 TO 1873.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO MISS CAULKINS' HISTORY.

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### *Norwich City Water Works.*

At the May session of the General Assembly of the State, 1866, the charter of the city was so amended as to give the city the power to supply itself with pure water. This amendment was accepted by the city, and in October of the following year a site was selected for a reservoir and the work commenced. The reservoir is in a natural basin between the Scotland Road and Canterbury Turnpike, one mile east of the Norwich Town Green, through which a small tributary stream ran to the Yantic River. On the south end of this basin a heavy embankment wall was built, 33 feet high and 400 feet long which formed a reservoir of about 350,000,000 gallons capacity. The length of the reservoir is one mile and an eighth, the average width 480 feet, the average depth  $16\frac{1}{2}$  feet, and the surface measure 66 acres. The level of the overflow is 250 feet above tide water, and  $19\frac{1}{2}$  feet above the summit of Jail Hill—the highest point of land in the city. This gives a pressure on the water pipes of 108 pounds to the square inch at tide water, and of  $95\frac{1}{2}$  pounds on Franklin Square. With this pressure water can be forced through an ordinary engine hose to a vertical height of 140 feet. Its efficiency for the purpose of extinguishing fires, as well as for domestic uses, is thus demonstrated. The present supply of water is equal to forty gallons a day to about 20,000 people, but by attaching other available streams to the reservoir, the supply can be indefinitely increased. The supply pipe is of iron, lined with cement and laid in a bedding of cement. The cost of the whole work up to January, 1873, including reservoir and piping, and all other necessary expenses, is not far from \$350,000.

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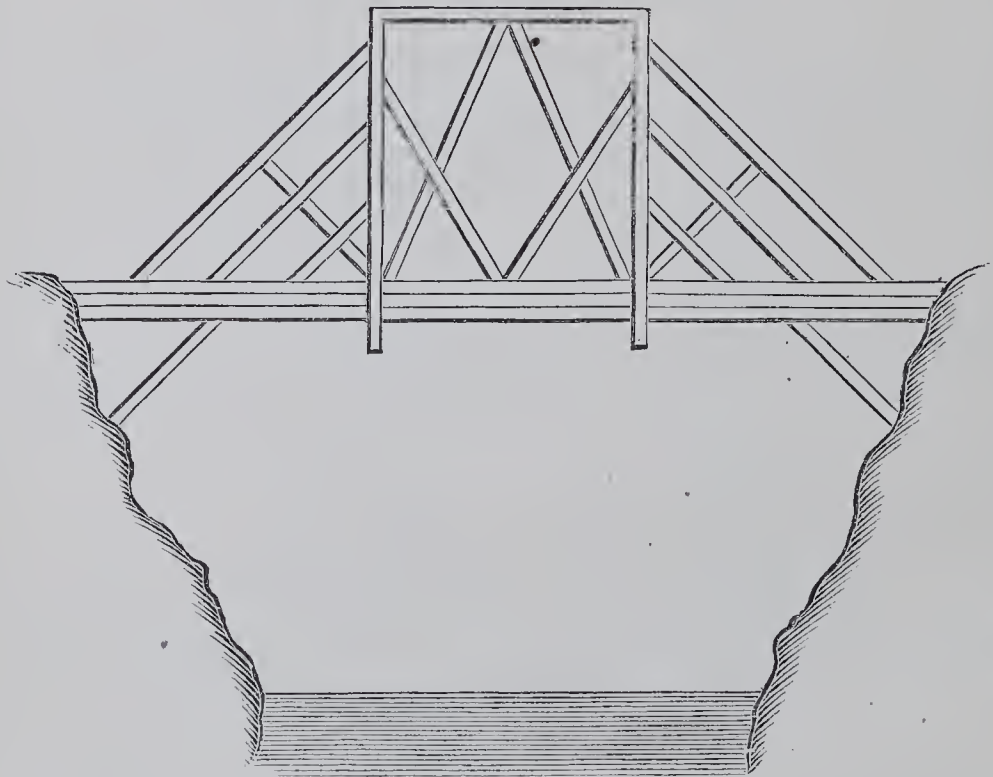
### *New Laurel Hill Bridge.*

For an account of the bridges built at different times on the site of the present Laurel Hill Bridge, see pp. 347 to 350. Since the publication of Miss Caulkins' History, a Norwich gentleman found in the Royal Library in Paris several volumes of letters, written by a French gentleman who

visited this country in 1786. This writer describes the bridge then standing on this site, and gives a representation of it as a remarkable bridge.

This is a translation of what he says about the bridge, and a copy of his drawing of it:—

“Sketch of a bridge 123 feet long, and 52 feet high, lately built over the eastern branch of the new Thames, called the river Shetucket, in the vicinity of Norwich, by Mr. Elias Bliss.”—*Book of St. John de Criercoque, entitled Lettres d'un cultivateur Americane, adressés à W. S. Eager, vol. 3. p. 517.*



Length, 123 ft. Height, 52 ft.

“But what most impressed me in this canton is a very extraordinary bridge, of which I send you an imperfect sketch. It is built on the Shetucket branch, between two rocks, which are in this place 123 feet distant from each other, and raised 52 feet above the surface of the river. It was devised and constructed last year (1785), by Mr. Elias Bliss, a simple carpenter of the neighborhood, gifted with extraordinary natural knowledge of mechanics. It is he who by his genius has contributed greatly to the improvement of the different mills of which I have just spoken.”

In 1867 there was erected at this place a fine iron bridge at an expense of about \$25,000.

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#### *Taftville.*

On page 621 a brief allusion is made to the purchase of the “lower privilege of the Occom Co.” by the Messrs. Taft & Co. of Providence.



This privilege was surveyed and laid out into a manufacturing village, and on February 26, 1866, ground was broken for the construction of a dam and mill. The property comprises an area of 600 acres, and is regularly laid out for dwelling houses and buildings for business purposes. The dam has a rollway of 400 feet in length and a fall of 30 feet. The plan contemplates three separate buildings for factories of 750 feet in length, but as yet only one building has been completed. This building is 750 feet long, 75 feet wide, and five stories high. It has an ell 227 by 61 feet, and four stories high. It has  $7\frac{3}{4}$  acres of flooring. The capacity of the mill is 1500 looms, employing 1500 operatives, which would represent a population of about 3,000 souls.

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Charles W. Rockwell, (see page 629) after his removal from Norwich engaged in business in the city of New York, and resided at Sing Sing on the Hudson river. There he died on the 13th of December, 1866, and his remains were brought to this city for interment.

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William P. Eaton, (see page 637) who was, it is safe to say, more prominent in public discussions in town and city meetings than any other citizen of Norwich, died at his residence on Broadway on the 5th of January, 1867, aged 72 years. His intense local pride, his intimate knowledge of local events and men, his strong common sense, ready wit and good command of language supplemented by a voice of Stentor, and almost gigantic figure, made him a power in town and city meetings that will give him a traditional celebrity long after the events in which he took a prominent part have passed out of the minds of men.

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*Gen. William Williams.*

Gen. William Williams (portrait page 535) died at his residence (see page 535) on the 28th of October, 1870, and as a prominent citizen of the town for more than sixty years, we give to him more than a passing notice.

He was the son of William and Mercy (Wheeler) Williams, and was born in Stonington, March 12, 1788. Deprived by death in early life of maternal care, he was placed at school in 1798 with his brother Thomas, in Plainfield, Conn. He remained in the then famous academy of that town, under the charge of Dr. Benjamin Allen, two years. In 1802, at the early age of fourteen, he went to New York, and became a clerk in the house of William and Sylvester Robinson, on "Murray's Wharf," as

it was then called, at the foot of Wall street. He there received a thorough business training, and remained with the firm four or five years, and afterwards made one or more voyages to Labrador and Bordeaux. In 1809 he removed to Norwich, and commenced business in company with his father and the late Calvin Goddard, under the firm of William Williams, Jr., & Co. Their principal business was grinding wheat and corn, and shipping the flour and meal to the West Indies, using the old "Lathrop Mills," at the Falls. In 1813 the same parties established and set in operation the first cotton mill ever run in Norwich, if not in the county, under the name of the Norwich Falls Co. This company was unfortunate, like many other pioneers, and when it was reorganized, under the title of the Williams' Manufacturing Co., General Williams retired from the business, and turned his attention to commercial pursuits, which were decidedly more congenial to his business tastes. He was engaged quite extensively about this time in shipping the agricultural products of this part of the State to Southern ports, and after the close of the war he made several voyages to Lisbon, and entered largely into the importation of wool. His brother, Hon. Thomas W. Williams, in the meantime was prosecuting the whale fishery in New London with energy and success, and in 1827, Gen. Williams made his first whaling investment in the ship Stonington. The adventure was successful, and in 1829 he formed a partnership with the late Capt. Acors Barns, and commenced the whaling and commission business, sending the *Electra*, (then withdrawn from the New York and London packet line,) as their first ship to the old "Banks," June 27, 1829. This was the foundation of the celebrated house of Williams & Barns.

His son Thomas W. Williams, 2d, who died Sept. 12, 1855, was introduced into the firm in 1832. The clear head and enterprising views of the son, soon allowed the father to leave the active management of the business, but he retained his interest to a greater or less extent in the house he had established until the day of his death.

Gen. Williams married Miss Harriet Peck, May 12, 1812, and probably few were permitted to enjoy so many years of happiness in the dearest ties of domestic life.—'Tis true that the repeated visits of the angel of death left them childless for the last fifteen years of his life, but many young persons found a pleasant home beneath his roof, and the doors of his hospitable mansion opened easily to the servants of God, and friends of humanity who sympathized with him in his benevolent works.

Most men grow old as years increase, and spend much time and breath in describing the excellences of the past generation and the sad deterioration of the present.—Though naturally of a conservative disposition, with great reverence for his ancestors and the principles of the pilgrim founders of New England, yet Gen. Williams cherished to a remarkable



degree a warm heart of sympathy with the young. He chose a neglected field to manifest specially this sympathy, and one where he was sure to meet with not a single fellow-worker. In this County there are more than two hundred District Schools, many of them are on poor cross-roads, seldom visited save by the pupils and their teachers. The heart of our deceased friend was turned especially towards these humble primary schools of learning, and it is believed that there is not a single school-house in the remotest corner of this county which he did not visit and speak to teachers and pupils some kind words of advice as to their studies and moral duties, especially suggesting to them the propriety of each learning *one verse* of scripture daily. In many of the schools in our country towns he was an annual visitor. He extended these visits occasionally to the remote parts of the State, and many a school among the hills of Litchfield County has welcomed him beneath its humble roof. We may safely say, in this line of benevolence and philanthropy he did a noble work, which no other man ever attempted. It is probable that he was known personally by sight to more individuals than any other man in the State. Nowhere else will the pleasant face and kind words of Gen. Wm. Williams be remembered longer than in the country school houses of New London county.

He was long the untiring and faithful friend of the Mohegan Indians, spending for many years his Sabbaths with them and encouraging and sustaining the interests of religion and education in their midst.

His large hearted benevolence was not limited to his state or country, and every good work for the benefit of his fellow men, and especially for the operations of the Foreign Missionary Society with which he was connected, had his warm sympathy and co-operation.

The health of General Williams failed gradually. In the beautiful language of inspiration, "the keepers of the house began to tremble, the silver cord was finally gently loosed, and the golden bowl broken." Well may be said of him as St. Paul said of the man after God's own heart, "After he had served his own generation, by the will of God, he fell on asleep."

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The Norwich Horse Railroad was projected in 1869, and was finished and the first cars passed over it on the 12th of September, 1870, from Bean Hill to Greeneville. In 1873 it exchanged its horse-power for steam, on a part of its line.

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A new iron bridge now spans the river on the site of the old Norwich and Preston toll bridge (see p. 349), which was built during the spring

and summer of 1870, and opened to public travel in August of that year. It is the most substantial and expensive bridge in the country.

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*The New Court House, City and Town Hall.*

On the 24th of April, 1865, a town meeting was held to discuss the subject of petitioning the Legislature to make Norwich the sole shire town of the county. At the same meeting a committee was appointed to select a suitable site for a new building for county and town purposes, to take the place of the house then recently burnt (see page 572). This committee consisted of John T. Wait, Lorenzo Blackstone, James A. Hovey, James Lloyd Greene, Amos W. Prentice, John W. Stedman, John T. Brown, Jeremiah Halsey, Augustus Brewster, H. H. Starkweather, and Henry Bill. Subsequently the town voted to instruct this committee not to take definite action until the Legislature had decided the shire town question.

The action of the Legislature was adverse to the petition of the town, and the whole matter of a new building was postponed till the General Assembly of 1869. Then an act was passed giving the town of Norwich, the city of Norwich, and the county of New London, power to combine for the erection of a building for town, city, and county purposes, with no other restriction as to the cost of the same except that the county should not expend to exceed the sum of \$20,000. The same act superseded the town committee appointed to select a site for the same, by placing that duty in the hands of the selectmen of the town of Norwich, the mayor of the city of Norwich, and the commissioners of the county of New London.

Early in 1870 all the parties in interest having agreed to proceed with the work, and fixed upon a site for the building, and plans for the same, the work commenced. It was not till the spring of 1873 that any portion of the building was ready for occupancy. The first session of the superior court in it was opened on the 11th day of November of that year.

The building stands at the junction of Broadway and Union streets, facing Otis square. It is one hundred and ten feet from front to rear, and one hundred and eight feet wide. It is three stories high (including the basement, occupied by the city for police purposes), with a French roof. The main cornice is fifty-eight feet from the ground. The tower rises twenty-nine feet from the roof. The basement story is of cut granite; the other stories are of pressed brick, with granite trimmings. The cornices and tower are of galvanized iron, and the roof is covered with tin. The cellar is the whole size of the building, and contains the steam boilers for heating the building, coal bins, &c. The basement floor is occupied by



the cells for a lock up, a police court room (30 by 50), and spacious rooms for all the ordinary police business of the city. On the first floor are the offices of the town clerk and other town officers, the county clerk's office, the probate office, the office of the chief engineer of the city fire department, the common council chamber (28 by 45), and the offices of the mayor, the city clerk and water commissioners. On the floor above are the town hall (48 by 62), in the rear, and the court room in front (45 by 50), with ample ante rooms, library rooms, sheriff's office, &c. Each story is supplied with water closets, fire proof vaults of large dimensions, extending from the ground, and every convenience for the accommodation of business and the personal comfort of the occupants of the building that modern ingenuity has devised. The tower contains a clock with illuminated dials, which are lighted up by night, and a 3,000 pounds bell, which is used by the clock, and also as an alarm bell. Water, gas and heat are carried to every room in the building. The interior finish is of yellow pine, chestnut, and black walnut.

The plans of the building were by Burdich and Arnold. Evan Burdich superintended the work. Gilbert L. Congdon executed the wood work, and Joseph H. Smith the masonry. The furniture was made to order by N. S. Gilbert and Son. In building and furniture the edifice will compare favorably with any public building in the country. Its entire cost was about \$350,000.

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*Jedediah Huntington.*

Jedediah Huntington (see page 467), after a sudden and brief illness, died at his residence on Washington street, about six o'clock Saturday evening, March 23, 1872. He had been suffering nearly a week under a heavy cold, but there was no apprehension of immediate danger until the morning of Friday, when his illness exhibited symptoms which indicated to the members of his family and to his physician that he would probably sink under the disease.

Mr. Huntington was born in Norwich on the 13th of September, 1791. He was the youngest son of Levi Huntington, also a native of our town who was a leading merchant here for many years, and who is spoken of in the annals of that time as "one of the most active and successful of the enterprising men of Norwich, during the period following the Revolution."

From the early part of this century until the close of our second war with England, he resided in Troy, N. Y., with his brother-in-law, Guilford Young. He then returned to Norwich and embarked in business in the stores that occupied the site of the present freight depot of the

Norwich & Worcester Railroad Company, and remained there alone or in company with his nephew, the late John G. Huntington, until he entirely retired from business in 1836. In all his business enterprises he was eminently successful; and this success may well be attributed not only to his energy, enterprise, and constant devotion to his business pursuits, but to the enviable reputation that he enjoyed for his unbending integrity.

In June, 1819, Mr. Huntington married Eliza, youngest daughter of the late Judge Marvin Wait, of New London. She was a lady with a warm heart and an open hand, and the poor and the afflicted were ever drawn toward her by her deep and tender sympathy for them. Mr. and Mrs. Huntington lived together more than fifty years, she dying in March, 1871. They celebrated their golden wedding in June, 1869.

Mr. Huntington has made a deep and lasting impression upon the regard of our community, by the liberality which he has exhibited in his large and frequent donations to religious and benevolent objects, principally connected with the church to which he was attached.

By his last will and testament, he gave the beautiful place, which was the residence of himself and wife for nearly forty years, as a home for indigent females, and appropriated \$35,000 as a fund for its support. It is called the "Eliza Huntington Memorial Home," as a tribute to his wife, who, during her last illness, expressed an earnest desire that a portion of his estate, which she would have received had she survived him, should be appropriated to found such an institution.

This noble charity is now in successful operation, according to the designs of its founder. The directors and managers at the present time (November, 1873), are John T. Wait, James A. Hovey, Jedediah Huntington, Rev. John Binney, Rev. W. W. Silvester, Samuel C. Morgan, Lafayette S. Foster, Jeremiah Halsey, Henry Bill, Rev. Norris G. Lippitt.

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*First Congregational Church—Resignation of Rev. Dr. Arms.*

The following extracts from the records of the First Congregational Church of this town give an account of one of the most interesting events connected with its history:

"At a meeting of the church, regularly called in the chapel, January 20, 1873, the pastor presented the following communication, addressed to the First Congregational Church and Ecclesiastical Society of Norwich:

"BRETHREN AND FRIENDS—In pursuance of a purpose some time since intimated to you verbally, I hereby tender to you in form the resignation of the active services and responsibilities of my pastorate,





Engraved by J.C. Kulture New York

*Eliza Huntington*





together with the salary which you have hitherto allowed me, to take effect on the settlement of another pastor.

"I am moved to this simply by considerations affecting your welfare; for though, in the kind providence of God, I have all the vigor of body and of mind which could reasonably be expected at seventy-four years of age, yet I am fully conscious that I am no longer able to perform all the ministerial labor which the prosperity of the parish demands.

"Should you accede to my wishes in this respect, it is my design still to remain among you, if you wish it, in the relation of *pastor emeritus*, or if you prefer it, I will demit the *office* as well as the duties of my pastorate.

"Whatever my nominal relation to you may be, you will ever "be in my heart, to die and live with you."

"Truly and affectionately yours,

"H. P. ARMS.

"Norwich, January 20, 1873."

"The above communication was accepted, and referred to the standing committee of the church.

"Resolutions were offered by the standing committee in response to the communication of the pastor, and action on them postponed till the regular meeting of the church on the first Thursday in February, at half-past seven o'clock, P. M.—Adjourned.

FEBRUARY 6, '73.—At the monthly meeting of the church, the resolutions presented by the standing committee at the last meeting were called up, and adopted as follows :

"Whereas Hiram P. Arms, D. D., after thirty-seven years of faithful and acceptable services as pastor of this church, at the age of seventy-four years, has tendered his resignation, and expressed his desire to retire from the active and responsible duties of such pastorate.

"Therefore, resolved—That we accept the same in manner and form as expressed in his letter of resignation, to take effect upon the settlement of another pastor.

"And, whereas, as a testimony of their appreciation of the fidelity and wisdom evinced by Dr. Arms in the discharge of the duties of his office for all those years, and the abundant and beneficent results of his ministry, his parishioners and friends have subscribed six thousand dollars to purchase him an annuity, which annuity, it is expected, will be made available in the early part of February. [The annuity yields \$1,200.]

"Therefore, resolved—That we concur in the action of the First Ecclesiastical Society, by which his salary is continued until such annuity is purchased.

"Resolved—That we continue to entertain a very great respect and affection for Dr. Arms, and shall accompany him in his retirement with

our best wishes and earnest prayers for God's blessing upon him and his household.

"Resolved—That it is a matter of sincere rejoicing to us all that one who has so long gone in and out before us, breaking the Bread of Life, has it in his heart to live and die with us, holding to this church the relation of *pastor emeritus*."

On the 20th of February, 1873, the Rev. William C. Scofield was installed pastor.

Mr. Scofield was born at Chester Co., N. Y., April 1, 1826; graduated at Hamilton College in 1847; was ordained pastor of the Second Congregational Church in Danbury, Connecticut, in 1852. He has ministered for longer or shorter periods in Danbury, Milford, Janesville, Wis., Ottawa, Ill., Newark, N. J., La Porte, Ind., and Fredonia, N. Y.

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On Tuesday, May 17, 1870, Mrs. Reclinta Freeman, a colored woman, died in Norwich town, aged 106 years and 6 months, probably the oldest person that ever lived in the town. She was born in Southold, L. I., but was brought to New London when a child, and was in that place when it was destroyed by Benedict Arnold. At the time of her death she had resided in Norwich about thirty-four years.

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*Rev. D. N. Bentley.*

One of the oldest inhabitants of Norwich at the present time (1873) is Rev. D. N. Bentley (see page 602), who is apparently as vigorous, mentally and bodily, as he was twenty-five years ago. A brief autobiography of this remarkable man will be, perhaps, more interesting than anything that can be written of him by another:

NORWICH, January 18th, 1873.

H. P. HAVENS, Esq.

DEAR SIR—I was born in the year 1785, and was early impressed with the principles of the Christian religion. In boyhood I embraced its saving influences, and joined the M. E. Church, in the year 1800, and very soon commenced holding public religious meetings by approbation of the church officials, and in 1804 was recognized a local preacher in the M. E. Church. I was consecrated to administer the ordinances of the church in 1818.

"I have administered the ordinance of baptism to more than four hundred persons—the greatest number of whom by the most common mode of immersion—by dipping or plunging the candidate backwards



under the water. Others equally sincere and conscientious were better satisfied by being plunged face foremost under water; and some others, truly pious persons, to satisfy their conscience chose to kneel in the water while the administrator poured the water from a pitcher on the head of the candidate. Still some other candidate, which preferred to kneel beside the river or stream, and have the administrator take the water with his hands and sprinkle it upon him; while many others chose to receive the ordinance kneeling at the altar in the house of God. And besides all these differing modes, I have performed this solemn Scriptural ordinance for candidates on a sick and dying bed. After all, "*Baptism is not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answering of a good conscience towards God.*"

I have attended as officiating minister at nearly 2,300 funerals, and at many of them I have been required to preach a sermon adapted to the occasion and circumstances of the deceased: committing their mortal remains to the ground; "Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, and dust to dust; looking unto the general resurrection on the last day, and the life of the world to come, through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Many funeral services included in the number 2,300 were performed in other towns besides Norwich, viz.: Preston, Griswold, North Stonington, Voluntown, Lisbon, Franklin, Windham, Bozrah, Lebanon, Colchester, Montville, Salem, Waterford, East Lyme, New London, Groton, Mystic, Ledyard, and others.

I have preached—including funeral discourses—not far from seven hundred sermons, all of which services have been performed gratuitously; not one dollar by way of remuneration have I received beyond my traveling expenses. I set out on the principle of preaching a free Gospel, and so far as my labors have been performed, the principle has been sustained.

I have already passed my eighty-eighth summer, and still acknowledge myself the poor man's minister. I have attended a regular service at our alms-house every third week for over sixty years, with very few exceptions.

The foregoing incidents of Christian labor have been hastily sketched, and are now submitted to your disposal, to use wholly or in part, or no part of them, as shall meet your pleasure, and I shall be satisfied.

Believe me, most sincerely,

Your friend and brother in cause of Jesus,

D. N. BENTLEY.

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In addition to the members of congress, residents of Norwich (see page 631), may now be added Henry H. Starkweather, a native of

Preston, but a resident of Norwich from boyhood. He has been elected to each successive congress since 1867.

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*Savings Banks and Insurance Companies.*

On page 659 two fire insurance companies are mentioned, which have since been discontinued, viz., the Norwich Fire Insurance Company and the Thames Fire Insurance Company.

The amount deposited in the Norwich Savings Society in 1873 is upwards of \$7,000,000, and in the Chelsea, \$2,600,000. The Dime Savings Bank was chartered in 1869, and has now (December, 1873,) a deposit of \$780,000.

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The "Aurora" (see page 583), passed in January, 1867, into the possession of the Norwich Printing Company, who immediately established a daily paper, under the title of the "Norwich Daily Advertiser," which has since been continued.

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*Mayors of the City.*

To the list of mayors (see page 630), may be added—

21. Lorenzo Blackstone, 1866 to 1870.
22. James A. Hovey, 1870 to 1871.
23. James Lloyd Greene, still in office.

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*Presidential Electors, Natives or Residents of Norwich (see page 631).*

John T. Wait, 1864; Abraham Lincoln, re-elected; opposition candidate, George B. M'Clellan.

Henry Bill, 1868; Ulysses S. Grant, elected; opposition candidate, Horatio Seymour.

Henry P. Haven, 1872; Ulysses S. Grant re-elected; opposition candidate, Horace Greeley.

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*The Mason Monument.*

On page 589 it will be seen that there is a protest against placing the Mason Monument on the spot where the corner stone was laid in 1859. That this protest was heeded will be seen by the following account of the subsequent action of the gentlemen having this monument in charge:



At the ninth formal meeting of the committee of arrangements for the celebration of the two hundredth anniversary of the settlement of the town of Norwich, it was, on motion of John A. Rockwell,

*Voted*—That the sum of three hundred dollars be appropriated for the purpose of erecting a suitable monument to the memory of Major John Mason.

And on motion of John T. Wait it was also

*Voted*—That Messrs. John A. Rockwell, Jedediah Huntington, and Gardiner Greene be appointed a committee to expend the money appropriated for the erection of a monument to Major Mason, to determine the site of the same, and fix upon the inscription which shall be placed thereon, and to do all things proper and necessary in the erection of said monument.

John T. Wait, Hiram P. Arms and L. F. S. Foster were subsequently added to this committee.

The three hundred dollars thus appropriated do not appear to have been placed in the hands of the committee, and at the last meeting of the committee of arrangements, held November 5th, 1859, there was found to be in the hands of the treasurer, after the payment of all the expenses, the sum of one hundred and sixty-four dollars and thirty-one cents (\$164.31), which it was voted should be placed on deposit in the Norwich Savings Society to the credit of Arthur F. Gilman, treasurer of the aforesaid committee; and on the 6th of May, 1869, the Hon. Erastus Corning of Albany, a native of Norwich, contributed the sum of one hundred dollars, which was placed to the credit of the same committee.

On the 9th of November, 1859, a meeting was held of the committee of arrangements for the bi-centennial ball, when it was found that after paying all expenses the sum of two hundred and thirteen dollars and sixty cents (\$213.60) was in the hands of the treasurer of said committee, which was appropriated for the purpose of erecting a monument to Major John Mason, and other early settlers of the town, and which was also deposited in the Norwich Savings Society to the credit of James M. Meech, treasurer of said committee, and a committee consisting of James H. Hyde, John L. Devotion, Charles A. Converse, and James M. Meech were appointed to act with the other committee in appropriating the money for that purpose.

Nothing was done towards carrying out the object contemplated in the doings of the two committees, until January, 1871, when John T. Wait, James M. Meech, and John L. Devotion were appointed to contract for and superintend the erection of such a monument as they should deem proper. They accordingly contracted with A. B. Young to erect said monument at a cost of six hundred and fifty dollars (\$650), on land of

Lyman W. Lee, adjacent to the old burying ground, on the street leading from Norwich Town to Bean Hill, with the following inscriptions:

At the base of the monument is cut the name Mason, and on the tablet in the centre, following Mason's full name and title, are these:

Rev. James Fitch, John Pease, John Tracy, John Baldwin, Jonathan Royce, John Post, Thomas Bingham, Thomas Waterman, and Robert Allen.

On the western base is the following inscription:

Major John Mason, born in England, died in Norwich, January 30th, 1672, aged 73.

Above this is a tablet bearing the names of

Sergeant Thomas Leffingwell, Richard Wallis, Thomas Adgate, John Olmstead, Stephen Backus, Thomas Bliss, John Reynolds, Josiah Reed, Richard Hendys, and Christopher Huntington.

On the north face are the names of

Ensign William Backus, Francis Griswold, Neh. Smith, Thomas Howard, John Calkins, Richard Edgerton, Thomas Post, and John Gager.

The southern face bears the following:

Samuel Hide, William Hide, Lieut. Thomas Tracy, Morgan Bowers, Robert Wade, John Birchard, Simon Huntington, Stephen Gifford, and John Bradford.

The balance of the fund—amounting to about one hundred and fifty dollars—at their disposal, the committee thought best to reserve for the purpose of keeping the monument in repair, and erecting in 1959 a larger and more imposing monument on the Green at Norwich Town. With this object in view the following petition was presented to the General Assembly at its May session, 1871:

*To the Honorable General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, next to be holden at Hartford, in said state, on the first Wednesday of May, A. D., 1871.*

The petition of the undersigned citizens of Norwich would respectfully represent, that at the bicentennial celebration of the settlement of the town, held in the year 1859, certain sums of money were collected and appropriated by the members of the different committees having the same in charge, to the erection of a monument to the memory of Major John Mason and the other original settlers of the town.

That the remaining members of the said committees within the past year have caused to be executed an expensive granite monument, on which are inscribed the names of said Mason and said original settlers, and have had the same placed in the ancient cemetery, where the remains of said Mason and said settlers are interred.

Your petitioners would respectfully ask that your honorable body would pass an act incorporating the members of said committee who still survive, with such other persons as they may associate with them, who shall have perpetual succession, and thus be enabled to take charge of certain funds remaining on hand after the completion of such monument, and also to watch over and keep said monument in proper repair and preservation.



Dated at Norwich this first day of May, A. D. 1871.

H. P. Arms, Jedediah Huntington, John T. Wait, John L. Devotion, J. M. Meech, Charles A. Converse.

Upon the foregoing petition the General Assembly passed an act incorporating a company in accordance with the petition.

A meeting of the corporators was held on the 23d day of September, 1871, and the following officers elected:—President, Hiram P. Arms. Secretary, John L. Devotion. Treasurer, John T. Wait. Directors, Jedediah Huntington, L. F. S. Foster, James M. Meech, Charles A. Converse, John Dunham, William A. Buckingham, William L. Brewer, Amos W. Prentice, James S. Carew, James Lloyd Greene, Lorenzo Blackstone, James A. Hovey.

The site on which the monument stands has been purchased, and the fund deposited to the credit of the association in the Norwich Savings Society now (December, 1873,) amounts to over two hundred dollars, If carefully preserved, and the interest compounded semi-annually, it will amount to a very large sum in 1959.

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The following notes and poems found among the papers of Miss Caulkins furnish a fitting conclusion to this history of the Mason Monument:

Captain John Mason was one of the boldest champions of New England, the conqueror of the Pequots and the preserver of the infant colony of Connecticut. He bore a large share in the hardships and dangers of the first settlement of Connecticut; fought desperately in her first Indian wars, and assisted in her earliest councils. He sustained also for eighteen years the office of magistrate, and for ten years that of deputy-governor of the colony.

Of the settlement of Norwich he was one of the first movers, and may justly be considered the chief founder of the town. The last twelve years of his life were passed in the infant plantation, and here his death took place January 30, 1672.

According to tradition Captain Mason was interred upon an undulating hill side, near the Yantic, in a spot reserved by the first settlers for a common place of sepulture. Undoubtedly the greater part of the first proprietors and inhabitants of Norwich repose in the same ground. But they had no inscribed stones; the hillocks are worn away, and it is long since the grave of even a single individual could be discriminated. The particular spot where Mason was laid cannot be ascertained. The whole area, however, covered by the graves, was but eight or ten rods square, and within that space was the sepulchre of the hero.

With so many claims to the gratitude and admiration of his countrymen, it is surprising that Captain Mason should have lain so long in an unnoticed grave. For 187 years he has reposed in the very centre of his exploits, without a stone, or even a hillock of turf to mark the hallowed spot.

ON LAYING THE CORNER STONE  
OF A  
MONUMENT TO THE MEMORY OF CAPTAIN JOHN MASON,  
OF CONNECTICUT, SEPTEMBER 7, 1859.

When Christian patriots die, or heroes brave,  
Lamenting hosts should bear them to the grave.  
The loudest trump, the deepest wail of woe,  
The grand majestic psalm around should flow,  
Till the soothed shade with all its honors rise,  
Borne up by swelling voices to the skies.

No generous pomp like this, no requiem bold,  
Brave Mason here thy country's homage told.  
No patriot to thy turf his children leads ;  
No stripling's bosom kindles at thy deeds ;  
Though stripped of accidents and weighed with thee,  
Our later veterans would but women be ;  
And from the bold adventures of thine arm,  
Champions might shrink and heroes feel alarm.

In every gleam that breaks those darkened years,  
Fierce as a rushing wind thy form appears.  
Our fancy shapes thee girt with martial pride ;  
Two phantoms, War and Death, are at thy side.  
A falchion here, and there a blazing brand,  
For fight or flame, illumine thy lifted hand.  
Now through the deepening woods we see thee go  
In heat and haste to give the final blow.  
Hot as a wolf, impatient to engage,  
Thy very breath seems red with martial rage :  
Though trained alone for war and warlike hunt,  
Stern Sassacus declines to meet thy front,  
And seeks, but seeks in vain, the black retreat  
Of pathless fens to hide his flying feet.

Fierce was the strife, and terrible the flame,  
That swept from earth a people and a name.  
Nor was the ravage of thine arm restrained,  
While fort, or tent, or sheaf of corn remained.

Captain, we honor thee, and to thy grave  
We bring such offerings as may suit the brave ;  
Though ill we can excuse such barbarous wars,  
Or fix the doubtful justice of thy cause ;



Or laud the Christian fury that rushed forth  
 To sweep barbarian fury from the earth.  
 Yet thou with heartfelt awe didst worship God,  
 And duty seemed to summon where you trod.  
 Thy mother bore thee to preserve a state,  
 And early danger called thee to be great ;  
 But *Faith*, the prompter, *faith* the pole star bright,  
 Allured thee here and armed thee for the fight.  
*Faith* sent thee forth amid the unchristianed wood,  
 And filled thy bounding heart with lion's blood.  
 Thee, thee we own, Deliverer of the land,  
 The stern Avenger of a trembling band.

Nor shall a hero's dust unhonored lie,  
 Nor dusty records veil his actions high ;  
 The sunlight falls at last upon thy name ;  
 Time gives a fresh-born lustre to thy fame.  
 Thy glory brightens, breaks from clouds away,  
 And like the earth rolls o'er to meet the day.

We come, though late, on this fair spot to raise  
 A heap of witness and a scroll of praise.  
 Thy slumbering relics in the wind and rain,  
 Watched only by the angels, long have lain ;  
 This earth that once with crimson life was warm,  
 These hallowed embers of a pilgrim form,  
 The dust that in a hero's visage shone,  
 Shall rest no longer under sods unknown ;  
 But lettered stone, and lofty shaft disclose,  
 The place made sacred by thy long repose.

To thee we consecrate this breezy height,  
 And charm the scene to keep thy glory bright.  
 We plant this *stone* devoted to thy name ;  
 We charge the winds to breathe around thy fame ;  
 The cliffs, the echoes shall the notes prolong,  
 The flowing Yantic mingle in the song.  
 Hark ! how the air resounds, the river strays  
 Harmonious to the music of thy praise.

A life so grand, a hero so renowned,  
 Heroic makes the hills and streams around ;  
 Lights up the crags, makes rudest nature fair,  
 And fans the trees with more than common air.

F. M. C.

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### MASON'S GRAVE.

[These lines were written many years since on visiting the most ancient burial-place in Norwich, the Gager Grave Yard, where Major Mason was buried.]

Fired by the legends wild that here they tell  
 Of bold adventures that our sires befel,

Of great men lowly and of old men brave,  
 I come to seek the gallant Mason's grave.  
 Tell me, O murmuring Yantic, where they laid  
 The wearied hero, and the last rites paid !  
 Tradition's finger, sole and solemn guide,  
 Still beckons onward to the rough hill-side,  
 And sadly whispers,—“ Here the warrior lies ;  
 Here rests the leader bold, the statesman wise ;  
 His work all done, beside the river's flow,  
 Whose music he had loved, they laid him low.  
 Peaceful he sleeps, and in their chamber nigh,  
 The relics of his bold compatriots lie.”

Is this the spot, neglected and untrod,  
 With brambles wild, devouring all the sod ?  
 This rugged field the city of the dead ?  
 These weeds the garland of our hero's bed ?  
 No column here is raised, no hillock green,  
 No grove with friendly shade embowers the scene ;  
 The sunken pits and weedy furrows round,  
 Alone proclaim where sacred dust is found ;  
 And oft the mower comes with earnest toil  
 To wrest the lingering verdure from the soil.\*  
 Indignant stream ! well may'st thou murmuring fly  
 While thus dishonored there brave relics lie.  
 Shame on thee, Country !—blotting from thy heart  
 The sturdy bands that made thee what thou art !  
 Who such a land would crown with chaplets brave,  
 Would toil to serve, or freely die to save ?  
 A land that grudges to the hero's name  
 The cheap reward of monumental fame,  
 And garners with a miser's sordid lust  
 The wisp of grass that rises from his dust.

Yet no wreathed urn, no classic statue here,  
 To thee, great Captain ! should our homage rear.  
 Be all thine emblems as thine actions great,  
 And suited be thine honors to thy state.  
 High on the hill, an index to the skies,  
 A pyramid of native rock should rise ;  
 Rough on its side with features fierce and free,  
 Should some bold carver seek to chisel thee ;  
 Half English, and half Native shouldst thou stand,  
 Sword by thy side and war-club in thy hand ;  
 Beneath, down trodden in the yielding stone,  
 The savage Pequot lying grim and prone—  
 While mountain oaks, by winds and storms embrowned,  
 Should stand in state, like giant guards around.

F. M. C.

\* This was a faithful description of the place at that day. It may be interesting to recall it, now that the whole scene is soon to be changed by the erection of a monument on the spot to the memory of the renowned Conqueror of the Pequots. A venerable gentleman, then living in the neighborhood, stated to the writer that he believed the last person interred in this ancient Cemetery, was one of the Mohegan tribe who died suddenly in the vicinity during the Revolutionary War.



*The Old Burying Ground at Norwich Town.*

In the year 1859 a committee, consisting of John T. Wait, Peter Lanman, Wolcott Huntington, and Rev. H. P. Arms, was appointed to collect the funds necessary to repair the old burying ground at Norwich town. In this old ground are the remains of the Huntingtons, the Traceys, the Lathrops, the Coits, the Stronges, the Backuses, the Nevinses, and many others who are prominent in the history of the town. The committee was pledged the sum of \$1200, largely by those who resided in the Southern States. The war of the Rebellion soon after breaking out, intercourse between the North and South was suspended, and in the troubles of the times the old burying ground was neglected, and the intentions of the committee have been but partially realized.

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*A New Congregational Church.*

On the 10th of July, 1873, the corner stone of a new church edifice was laid, with due ceremony, on the Gen. Williams' lot, near the Great Plain, the lot occupied by the dinner tent on the occasion of the bi-centennial celebration in 1859. The plan of organizing a society and building a church at this place was conceived by the members of the Second Congregational Church residing in the vicinity. The lot was a contribution by Gen. W. Williams. The edifice now (December, 1873,) approaches completion. The style of architecture is the Norman; the material used a light brown sandstone. Its dimensions are 153 by 89 feet, cruciform, with a spire on the Broadway side 144 feet high. The main edifice will seat 900 persons, and the chapel in the south end of the building 400. Its cost will be quite \$100,000.

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*St. Patrick's Cathedral.*

On the 13th of July, 1873, the corner stone of St. Patrick's Cathedral, a Roman Catholic church, was laid on a lot on Broadway, near the head of the Little Plain, in the presence of an immense crowd of people, and by the imposing ceremonies of the church. The church is a cruciform structure, of solid granite, in the Gothic style, with colored windows and ornamented slate roof. It will have several towers, from 160 to 214 feet high. It will seat at least 1,500 people, and its cost is estimated at \$150,000.

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*The Norwich Memorial.*

Beyond any other town in New England Norwich has been fortunate in securing a historian of her deeds in the great Rebellion of 1861-'65.

Rev. Malcolm McG. Dana, pastor of the Second Congregational Church, undertook the historian's task, and the result is a large volume of nearly 400 pages, embellished with eighteen portraits of the most prominent of the sailors and soldiers who went from this town. The narrative lacks nothing to make the history of the town complete during that eventful period from April, 1861, to April, 1865.

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*The Soldiers' Monument.*

At a meeting of the citizens of Norwich, held at Breed Hall on the 14th of January, 1869, it was resolved "that a committee of seven be appointed to solicit and collect funds for the erection of a monument to the Norwich soldiers and seamen who fell in our late war for the preservation of the National Union." The committee consisted of Hon. W. A. Buckingham, Amos W. Prentice, John T. Wait, Rev. M. McG. Dana, Dr. C. B. Webster, James L. Carew, Edwin P. Avery, E. P. Slocum, and Misses Elizabeth Greene and Eliza Perkins. The committee did not make much progress, so at a town meeting on the 3d of October, 1870, the subject was again brought up and disposed of by laying a tax of "fifteen cents on one hundred dollars of the assessment list of the town," and appointing a committee to expend it in the erection of a suitable monument to the memory of the soldiers and seamen of the town in the great Rebellion. William A. Buckingham, John T. Wait, and James A. Hovey were appointed this committee. A contract for a monument was soon made, and in the spring of 1873 it was put in place at the head of the Great Plain. The monument is of a light granite, from Westerly, R. I. Its design is that of a colossal statue of a Union soldier, supported on a massive pedestal. The statue is twelve feet high, and the entire height of the monument is twenty-seven feet six inches. It measures ten feet square at the base. Its cost was about \$18,000. The inscriptions on the several sides are—the motto of the state, the names of all those from this town who fell in active service, and these words on the front, "Erected by the town of Norwich in memory of her brave sons, who voluntarily entered the military service of the United States and lost their lives in defence of the national government during the Rebellion."



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